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LOOKING AHEAD

Mayor Gregor Robertson outlines his vision for the city

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

Picture a city with more transit. No increase in tanker traffic. New affordable housing. Tech start ups on every corner.

It's no secret that this is what Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson sees when he envisions Vancouver's future, with his strong stance on these issues getting him elected for a third term last fall.

He shared his take on how these unfolding issues will affect city business going forward in an interview with Metro.

ON THE TRANSIT PLEBISCITE — AND WHETHER HE IS OPTIMISTIC IT WILL PASS

"A 'Yes' outcome means big improvements in transportation throughout the region, which is clearly a big bonus for business and the city's economy. A 'No' vote means status quo and we'll be going back to the drawing board with the B.C. government to figure out how to improve transportation. A 'No' will delay the much-needed improvements with transit.

I'm optimistic that people will use common sense and that the 'Yes' vote will prevail. It's such an essential investment for our city.

I'm still hopeful, despite the very challenging process.

ON VANCOUVER'S "CLEAN AND GREEN" BRAND, RECENTLY VALUED AT $31 BILLION BY A BRITISH FIRM

Whether it's tourism or construction or development, they all benefit from people being attracted to the city from around the world. Our Vancouver brand is a great calling card for businesses seeking opportunities elsewhere. We're seeing outstanding job growth in our green economy … that's a unique opportunity for Vancouver to capitalize on our green brand globally and it's creating thousands of jobs.

ON BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHINA

We put a special focus on deepening our business ties with China. We've seen good success at increasing the tourism and tech company growth, and, in particular, clean tech and creative industries. Both Vancouver companies are penetrating the Chinese market and Chinese companies are locating in Vancouver to access the North American market. That's been a success story.

Metro talks with Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

ON THE CHALLENGE OF FILLING 3,000 EMPTY JOBS…

Our barriers to growth are primarily in finding enough people for our fast-growing companies. We have great universities and colleges, but the supply of graduates into tech companies is limited compared to the rapid growth we're seeing. Many companies are hiring globally to continue their growth trajectory.

The last number I heard is over 3,000 job openings in technology right now. That's not really out there. People in other cities in Canada had no idea that the boom was this big in Vancouver and there are so many job openings. We've got a road show out there to make sure people know Vancouver is the land of opportunity. It's competitive.

… WHEN REPORTS SHOW YOUNG PEOPLE ARE LEAVING THE CITY

I'm obviously very concerned if young people are leaving due to affordability challenges. I also know we're attracting many young people to Vancouver because we're a great city to live in with huge economic opportunities. That's good news, but we certainly have a challenge ensuring there's enough housing for young people and young families. That's a city hall priority.

ON WHY THE PIPELINE EXPANSION IS TOO RISKY, AND WHY HE ISN'T WORRIED IF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DOESN'T LIKE HIS STANCE

Our research demonstrates the pipeline and tankers proposed are an enormous risk to Vancouver's economy and environment, which are inseparable. Our economy relies on a healthy environment. It's part of being the world's most livable city and attracting people and investment globally. Many of our most successful industries rely on our green brand and our thriving environment.

THIS INTERVIEW HAS BEEN EDITED AND CONDENSED

What's Inside

Ships ahoy! Industry is riding a renewed wave of success. See page IV11

Local flavours are on display at one of the many farmers' markets. See page IV18

Lights. Camera. Action. Blockbusters returning to Vancouver and area. See page IV20

The boys of summer are back on the diamond. See page IV21

Growing in leaps and bounds

SURREY

Mayor Linda Hepner sets the scene for region's fastest growing city

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

With Metro Vancouver expected to grow by one million people by 2041 — the majority of it south of the Fraser — Surrey Mayor Linda Hepner spoke with Metro about what it's like to be at the epicentre of the region's fastest growing city.

Surrey Mayor Linda Hepner recently spoke with Metro about the future of her city. METRO FILE

WE HEAR A LOT ABOUT HOW SURREY IS GROWING. CAN YOU SET THE SCENE FOR US AND TELL US EXACTLY HOW FAST THE CITY IS GROWING?

We're sitting at about 512,000 people right now and we're projecting about 1,000 new residents every single month. Over the next three decades we will surpass Vancouver's population, somewhere in the 800,000 range.

WHAT KIND OF CHALLENGES COME WITH KEEPING UP WITH THAT GROWTH?

Right now, we're looking at positioning ourselves to taking advantage of the high-value growth sectors. We continue to focus on the health and technology sector with our Innovation Boulevard. We just landed a multinational, Philips Healthcare. We're working with a lot of partners and multinationals, so landing one is really important to the vision. We're looking at clean tech, and cybersecurity, and food security, too.

But it's still a challenge when you've got 1,000 people every single month coming in and you need to create X number of jobs. The only other way to sustain it is by having such a transportation system that allows them to travel around the region without creating the kind of gridlock we have projected in the absence of the plebiscite transportation options.

That's one of the reasons I'm so passionate about setting up light-rail transit in Surrey right now. I need that connectivity. Not only to shape the city, but in order to provide the kind of advantages and job creation that we'll have from that. There's just no way around it; we have got to connect communities. In the absence of that, the kind of growth we're experiencing just can't continue.

THERE'S BEEN SOME COMMENTARY ABOUT VOTERS IN SURREY BEING COMPLACENT BECAUSE THEY KNOW THOSE LIGHT-RAIL LINES ARE COMING NO MATTER WHAT.

There's so much more in the plan than light rail. There's night bus service, which we desperately need. There's HandiDart service, there's the new bridge, there are a lot of other elements to it.

IS THERE A SHIFT IN THE WAY PEOPLE SEE SURREY?

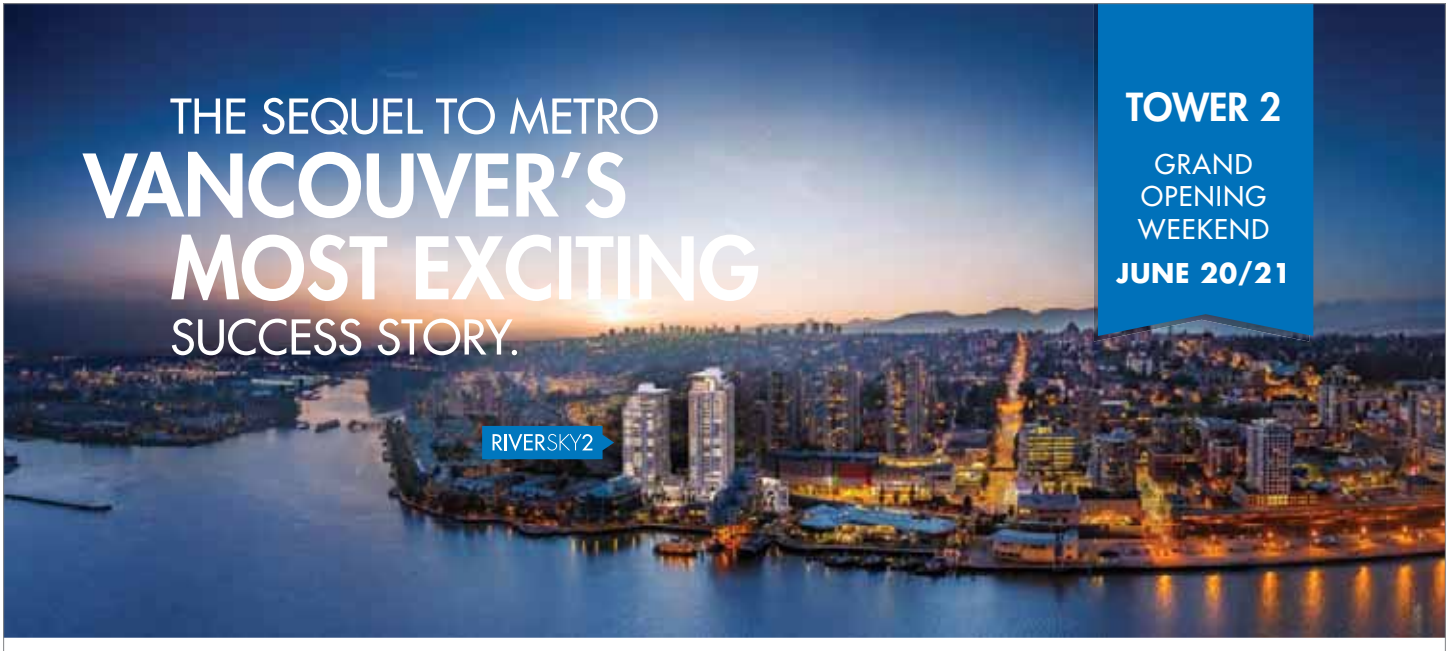
We have seen a solid urbanization of the city, probably over the last decade, if not the last two decades. We started at 0.6 jobs for every working person. I'd like to see it one-on-one. Moving that needle, when you're adding 1,000 people every month, exponentially to get to the one is an enormous job. So, with urbanization, comes job creation. The more people you have, the more opportunity there is for retailers and service professionals. All of those go hand-in-hand. We're now at 0.7, so we've moved the needle in a decade from 0.6 to 0.7 while we've grown from 350,000 to over 500,000. That by any measure is a success, but not where we need to be.

HOW IS THE CITY MAKING SURE IT'S A CITY IN WHICH PEOPLE WANT TO LIVE AND STAY?

What we are seeing is all those young techies who started out single and in the downtown Vancouver scene are now married with children and looking at the affordability factor. They're moving to Surrey and to communities here in our city. We see that as an advantage by the fact that our homes are still affordable.

What we're doing in the recreation and culture arena, we're establishing a new gallery and café in south Surrey. We're putting in more art space within city hall. We've got an idea for a cultural corridor that will stretch from where I'm sitting here in my office down King George Boulevard for arts and cultural facilities and, hopefully, they'll be so well-established as something the community embraces, that when we do the lift and build of those 19 stations around the light rail, they'll form a very close and solid relationship with business that they stay within the corridor itself.

THIS INTERVIEW HAS BEEN EDITED AND CONDENSED



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A strong voice for business

ECONOMY

The Vancouver Board of Trade helps lead conversations

Whether we realize it or not, the strength and resilience of our provincial and regional economies is the envy of every other province and major city in Canada.

Members of The Vancouver Board of Trade have the privilege of regularly hearing from some of the country's thought leaders on economics, politics and business. One of the common themes I hear from our speakers is how fortunate we are to live here. And while they love our beaches, mountains and mild winters, it's actually our unique economic conditions that prompt the remark.

Clearly, our proximity to Asia is a huge competitive advantage. We've become Canada's gateway to the Pacific Rim, which has led to a boom in economic activity. In 2014, Port Metro Vancouver had a record year, handling more than 140 million tonnes of cargo and generating nearly $10 billion to Canada's GDP. Approximately $500 million in cargo now floats in and out of Burrard Inlet each day.

Meanwhile, YVR has grown into Canada's second busiest airport, welcoming nearly 20 million passengers in 2014. In fact, since our organization helped establish the local airport authority in 1992, passenger traffic at YVR has increased more than 96 per cent — and that number is only set to climb higher.

We also benefit enormously in the Lower Mainland from the abundance of natural resources up north, whether mining, forestry, or oil and gas. The result is a global expertise that resides in Metro Vancouver to service this industry (lawyers, geologists, engineers, accountants, etc.), as well as the head offices of more than 1,200 small exploration companies. B.C.'s mining industry alone contributed nearly half a billion dollars in taxes last year, which, frankly, helps pay for the Lower Mainland's roads, schools and hospitals.

Meanwhile, our desirable lifestyle and abundance of post-secondary training has helped B.C.'s $23-billion high-technology sector to employ more people than the mining, oil and gas, and forestry sectors combined. Linking this tech talent with our natural and varied beauty, Metro Vancouver has also become the third-largest foreign film and production centre in North America, employing more than 36,000 people.

Yet, for all our success and momentum, we know challenges and uncertainty face our businesses — big or small — in the months ahead. The impact of the change in government in Alberta is unknown, and there is the normal uncertainty that accompanies the fall federal election. As I write, we are also awaiting the outcome of the referendum on regional transportation funding, meaning uncertainty as to the much needed transit and road infrastructure improvements.

Iain Black, the president and CEO of The Vancouver Board of Trade, wrote about the local economy for Metro. CONTRIBUTED

To ensure our continued success, then, we must avoid future labour disruptions at our port like the one experienced last year, and we must continue to urge our governments to continue to pursue liberalized air access agreements with other countries, and to expand the transit-without-visa programs. The business community also needs to show leadership in helping shrink the urban-rural divide in B.C., while educating the general public about the critical linkages between the 250 and 604/778 area codes.

> **One of the common themes I hear from our speakers is how fortunate we are to live here. And while they love our beaches, mountains, and mild winters, it's actually our unique economic conditions that prompt the remark.**

At The Vancouver Board of Trade, we have been helping lead conversations that matter since our inception in 1887. We will continue to be a strong voice for businesses across the Greater Vancouver region for decades to come.

IAIN BLACK IS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE VANCOUVER BOARD OF TRADE. HE ALSO SERVED AS ONE OF FOUR CO-CHAIRS FOR THE BETTER TRANSIT AND TRANSPORTATION COALITION, COMPRISED OF 145 DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONS.

FROM 'A' TO 'B'

How people move from place to place fuels our economy, shapes how and where we work and live, and even influences how we socialize.

For Vancouver, the future of transportation looks green and active.

Todd Litman, executive director of the Victoria Transport Policy Institute, predicts citizens will spend more time travelling by bus, bike or on foot, creating communities where people live in walking distance of everything they need.

"Most public transit in most cities is going to be by bus," Litman said.

He envisions fold-down work tables, Wi-Fi, on-board washrooms, refreshments and coffee.

Conveniences like this will go a long way in convincing more Vancouverites to ditch their cars.

What will our multimodal future cost?

"Compared with the cost of all those SkyTrain passengers owning a car and having a parking space at every destination, it's very, very cheap to maintain SkyTrain and quality buses," he said, pointing out the one-time cost for an underground parking space in downtown Vancouver costs between about $30,000 and $60,000.

"A city where few people own their own car can spend a whole lot less building and maintaining roads compared to a city where everyone owns a car."

STEPHANIE ORFORD/FOR METRO

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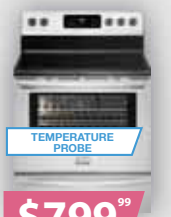
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A profound and fundamental shift

Stephanie Orford
For Metro

Metro Vancouver's appeal is undeniable — clean air and water, open spaces, safety, and many educational opportunities and cultural activities to enjoy.

It's no wonder the region has been welcoming about 30,000 new permanent residents and 100,000 temporary residents — mostly international students and temporary foreign workers — every year for the last 10 years, according to Statistics Canada.

What is Metro Vancouver's immigration future?

Dan Hiebert, a professor at UBC's department of geography who specializes in immigration and population demographics, says he sees trends continuing. Temporary foreign workers will continue to wax and wane with the economy, and Vancouver schools will continue to recruit international students, who contribute more than $2 billion to the B.C. economy every year.

In the extended future, external factors will likely bring more people to live here, he said. "By 2050, I think we'll have seen more of the impact of global environmental change, which I think will make Vancouver even more attractive."

Continuing to welcome new residents, both international and domestic, will bring challenges and opportunities.

"Vancouver has, largely speaking, a net outflow of population, if you take away immigration," Hiebert said. "Immigration is keeping the population stable ... If you're adding to the population, you're adding to housing demand."

Immigration is also changing the cultural composition of the city. Metro Vancouver is inching toward a minority-majority, where more than 50 per cent of residents are a "visible minority (not white)." In 2006, that number was 41 per cent and today it's about 45 per cent.

The effects of Vancouver's rising population of new immigrants can be seen everywhere.

"It's a profound and fundamental shift," Hiebert said.

"There's no easy generalization," for the effects this influx will have, he said, describing research he has done in the past interviewing immigrant families about their reasons for living in particular neighbourhoods. Some told him they valued a community where their kids could grow up among people from their background; others said they wanted to be in a place where they could integrate into Canadian society.

New citizens take the oath at a recent citizenship ceremony in Vancouver. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

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What are the next hot 'hoods

Stephanie Orford
For Metro

What will Vancouver's next hot neighbourhoods be? The answer isn't simple, and it's intricately tied to the process of gentrification.

"Gentrification" is a negative buzzword in Vancouver, but it's a process that's been changing the make-up of neighbourhoods in cities for centuries, says Erick Villagomez, editor of Spacing Vancouver and adjunct professor at UBC's Schools of Architecture and Landscape Architecture.

"We use the term a lot currently to describe more of a forceful, planned endeavor, but that's not necessarily the case." There are healthy and unhealthy forms of gentrification, he says. "It's how cities evolve."

Unhealthy gentrification is usually a sudden, large-scale change enforced by the city, and often involves destroying large swathes of an existing neighbourhood to create a new one, he says.

Healthy gentrification happens more gradually. Detroit and Berlin are both going through it. Each city "had a whole bunch of derelict buildings that artists moved into, and they transformed it into something cool," explains Villagomez. "Trends over centuries in cities show that neighbourhoods have typically gone in and around artists or some sort of group taking over a derelict landscape and transforming it into something interesting."

This is how desirable neighbourhoods are born.

The number-one ingredient of a cool neighbourhood is a strong identity — the artsy neighbourhood, Little Italy, Chinatown, the brewery district. When people go there to experience something that doesn't exist in their own neighbourhood, you're onto something.

Affordable homes and commercial spaces are another core requirement, and diversity of housing affects who can move in.

Amenities are critical too. Everyone wants a place where they can "live, work and play" close to home.

Proximity to transportation is key — can people get there? How easy is it for them to commute to work?

No two great neighbourhoods follow the same recipe, so what Vancouver's neighbourhoods will look like in 10 years is hard to predict. Areas that Villagomez sees potentially poised for growth include Hastings Sunrise, Fraser Street, Great Northern Way around the new Emily Carr campus, the south end of Marpole near Oak, New Westminster and Surrey's City Centre.

But cities are full of surprises, and one factor can dramatically change a whole neighbourhood, for better or worse.

"What you're seeing is the unfolding of the experiment," he says.

The number-one ingredient of a cool neighbourhood is a strong identity. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

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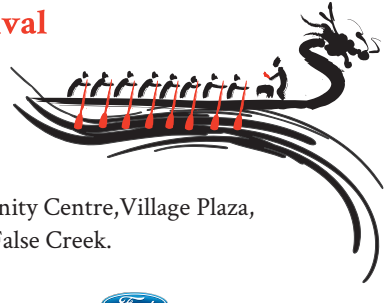

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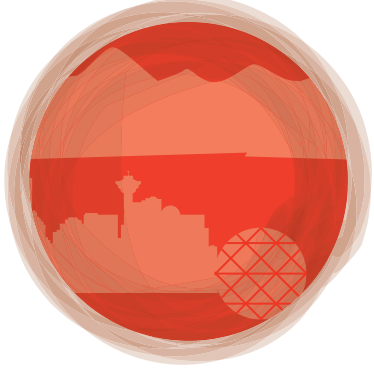

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Real estate heats up

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

Those wondering how hot Vancouver's real estate market needed to get before politicians would respond to pleas to intervene now have an answer: This hot.

Residents have long grumbled about expensive living in the City of Glass, but this spring the complaints — and the housing prices — blew past a tipping point that prompted local, provincial and federal politicians to float ideas to ease the housing crunch, or at the very least, consider addressing it.

Not that they agree on what should be done about a city where councillors consider $1,366 for a 450-square-foot apartment "affordable," a teardown costs a million dollars, rental vacancy rates hover around zero and Millennials are fleeing to cheaper pastures.

Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson penned a letter in May to Premier Christy Clark pitching an increased property transfer tax on luxury properties, a speculation tax and the ability to track ownership of vacant units.

Clark responded in June that she wants to help first-time buyers get into the market but doesn't want to slap on a tax that could drive down housing prices. She urged Robertson to reconsider the city's expensive development fees and increase supply through better land planning. Meantime, the province will consider "levers at its disposal."

Enter the federal Liberal and NDP leaders, who in June promised the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to spend more on affordable housing. The Conservatives were quick to question how they would fund the promise.

The only thing the governments apparently have in common is a lack of appetite for a tax on foreign buyers.

While the politicians spat — there are new ideas daily as the issue refuses to fade — the young professionals who started the popular #donthave1million social media campaign to call for action on affordable housing continue to push them to at least collect data on foreign ownership and vacancies.

The campaign sparked an affordable housing rally attended by a few hundred people who believe they should be able to afford to raise a family in the city they call home.

Reactions to the campaign included hand wringing about entitled kids and admonitions to move to the suburbs. This, despite the fact that Millennials aren't exactly young — the oldest are 35 — and the suburbs aren't particularly affordable, especially considering the younger generation earns significantly less than Baby Boomers, according to the Conference Board of Canada.

A house at 65 East 26th Avenue in Vancouver recently sold in March for $567,260 over the asking price. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

New age of B.C. shipbuilding

An aerial shot of North Vancouver's Seaspan Vancouver Shipyards. CONTRIBUTED/SEASPAN

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

The man at the helm of Seaspan says the province's shipbuilding industry has never been in a better state as the company embarks on its massive $7.3 billion contract.

The North Vancouver shipyard was awarded the multi-year contract — to build ships for the Royal Canadian Navy and Canadian Coast Guard under the National Shipbuilding Procurement Strategy (NSPS) – in 2011, bringing with it the guarantee of steady work for 15 years.

Since then, Seaspan has modernized its facilities with a $170 million update that includes six new buildings, cutting equipment and a 300-tonne gantry crane (the largest in Canada).

This month it also completed work on a $15-million cable ferry for BC Ferries, the project serving as a test run of Seaspan's new shipbuilding capacity before launching into full production on three offshore fisheries science vessels, the first piece of its NSPS commitment.

Seaspan president Brian Carter told Metro that NSPS contract equates to 1,000 direct trades jobs, 300 management and engineering positions and approximately 5,000 indirect full-time positions. It will generate about $450 million a year in GDP.

"We're just weeks away from starting. We're geared up and ready to go," said Carter. "The NSPS is absolutely one of the better situations in the world, as far as shipbuilding goes, because of the long-term nature of the work we have. You ask about the state of the shipbuilding industry in B.C. and I would say it's never been better."

Much has been made about BC Ferries' recent decision to build three new intermediate class ferries in Poland, and the need to boost the shipbuilding industry in B.C.

Carter said Seaspan would have loved to compete for that contract, but said its capacity was spoken for at the time. However, he thinks the shipyard is primed to pick up the slack once its federal commitments wind down.

"We're not a mega shipyard like you would find in Korea and China, but we're the right size for the work we will be doing," he said. "The idea is once we get through the first 10 years worth of (NSPS) work, then we should have some capacity open up so we can continue building non-combat vessels for Canada and open it up to either commercial customers like BC Ferries or maybe export products similar to what we build for Canada."

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Joint session

Diane Claveau smokes marijuana outside city hall on Wednesday ahead of a public hearing. Vancouver aims to become the first jurisdiction in Canada to regulate marijuana dispensaries. Story in metroNEWS. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Beware open windows: Kids' doctor

SAFETY

Six B.C. children injured from falls in six days

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

After six serious falls in six days, the head of the BC Children's Hospital's trauma program is warning about the dangers of open windows and balconies for children.

Dr. Ash Singhal, a pediatric neurosurgeon, said six children have been admitted to hospital since last Thursday after falling from windows or balconies.

"Thankfully, none of those six children have passed away," he said. "But some of the kids are very severely injured … and have brain injuries."

Singhal said a child also doesn't have to fall far to become seriously hurt.

"From one storey, we've seen life-threatening injuries and even deaths in the past," he said.

With the spike in falls believed to be the result of warm weather, Marilyn Oberg, a paramedic chief for the BC Ambulance Service, urged families to invest in safety locks to prevent children from falling out of open windows.

"It's just blazing hot right now," she said. "Everybody's trying to find some relief, so throwing the windows open seems like a pretty good option, but … it's something we have to be absolutely careful about."

Singhal said he often hears from parents in the emergency department who believe a screen is sufficient protection.

"Screens are designed to keep bugs out," he said. "They're not designed to keep kids in."

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Canadian airlines OK with carry-on size. **Business**

Foreign buyers have small impact on market: BCREA

REAL ESTATE

First-time buyer segment not negatively affected: Muir

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

The British Columbia Real Estate Association says the impact of foreign buyers on Vancouver's housing market has no bearing on first-time homebuyers.

The association (BCREA) publicly released a report Wednesday that says, based on the evidence available, "foreign investment into the Metro Vancouver housing market suggests that it represents no more than approximately five per cent of market demand and that housing affordability in the first-time buyer segment of the market has not been negatively affected."

Economist Cameron Muir, who authored the report, told Metro other factors — such as the shrinking supply of increasingly pricey single-family detached homes due to densification — are to blame for the region's average home price of $738,000.

"We didn't see any evidence of (foreign ownership) impacting the market any more than what we're seeing anywhere else in Canada," said Muir.

The report — based on 2011 Census, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, annual realtor surveys and other independently conducted research data — was submitted to the provincial government last month. In it, BCREA warns policies to curb foreign investment are not necessary to address home affordability, but it still recommends attaching a "residency declaration" somewhere in the land transfer form process to more accurately track foreign influence on real estate sales.

Recently, both Mayor Gregor Robertson and Premier Christy Clark downplayed the role foreign ownership may play in the region's home affordability crisis.

Muir said foreign owners largely impact the high end of the region's housing market, and represent just 2.3 per cent of the region's condo market.

The luxury segment, coupled with the scarcity of single-family homes on the market (80 per cent of new construction in the region is multi-family housing), has driven up the average home price in the region, Muir said.

But it has also created a false impression of unaffordability in Metro Vancouver, the BCREA argues.

Muir says 70 per cent of all home sales in the region fall below the average price of $738,000, and 32 per cent of homes sold for below $400,000.

And while single-family house prices have jumped 32 per cent in the last five years, apartments have increased by just seven per cent.

Meanwhile, average wages have increased 11 per cent in the same period and mortgage interest rates remain low.

"So the market is actually more affordable for first-time buyers now than it has been in recent years," he said.

Because of the disparity between single-family and multi-family home markets, Muir said, the public should consider them as two separate entities when talking about affordability.

Condos in Yaletown are pictured. A BCREA survey says foreign buyers make up just five per cent of the Vancouver housing market demand. METRO FILE PHOTO

$738,000

Economist Cameron Muir says 70 per cent of all home sales in the region fall below the average price of $738,000.

GROUSE GRIND

Man dies on trail

Mounties say a 55-year-old man died of a heart attack on the Grouse Grind trail in North Vancouver on Wednesday morning.

Cpl. Richard De Jong of North Vancouver RCMP said police and firefighters received a report of a medical emergency on the popular hiking trail around 10:30 a.m.

He said the man was hiking with a group of people when he went into cardiac arrest.

"He made it about three-quarters of the way to the top," De Jong told Metro.

"The fire responders attended and did CPR and first aid but unfortunately he succumbed to the heart attack."

As the case has been turned over the BC Coroners Office, police aren't releasing the man's identity.

De Jong said he was from West Vancouver and offered his condolences to the man's family.

The trail, which was closed for about 2-1/2 hours while paramedics responded to the emergency, re-opened later Wednesday.

De Jong said the tragedy serves as a reminder that the Grouse Grind trail, although a popular tourist destination, is difficult for paramedics to reach quickly.

In 2013, a 50-year-old man died of a suspected heart attack midway up the Grouse Grind.

"Anytime there is a medical distress, it's a reminder that this is a remote area," he said. "It's not like you can call the ambulance and drive up there. It takes time for first responders to attend."

THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

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Patrick R. Brown and L. Steven Taylor star in The Lion King, which runs June 18 to July 12 at Queen Elizabeth Theatre. COURTESY DISNEY/JOAN MARCUS.

The Lion King's roar returns

BACKSTAGE PASS

Shows begin here June 18

Graeme McRanor
Metro | Vancouver

It's often said that the lion is the king of the jungle. And that's true in the concrete one, too.

The Lion King, now in its 18th year, is the highest-grossing musical of all time, reportedly earning more than $6.2 billion worldwide since its 1997 debut on Broadway.

In that time, 22 productions have been mounted around the globe and, during its astonishing, cumulative 112-year run, has been seen by more than 75 million.

It's also only the second show in history to generate five productions running worldwide for more than a decade.

Currently, the musical can be seen in New York, London, Hamburg, Tokyo, Madrid, Brisbane and Basel — and it's also on tour across Japan and North America.

The North American tour, which trots into Vancouver June 18, has, on its own, been seen by more than 15 million theatergoers and grossed over $1 billion.

And counting.

HOW TO GO

The Lion King runs from June 18 to July 12 at Queen Elizabeth Theatre. Tickets start at $35 via Ticketmaster.

EVENTS

7 things to do this weekend

1. Toast the Coast
Where: Jericho Beach
When: June 13, 4 p.m.-12 a.m.
Greenpeace is inviting people to Jericho Beach Saturday for a zero-waste picnic to celebrate the coast. The event features music and art. A giant salmon, designed by artist Roy Henry Vickers, will be turned into a lantern and will be launched at sundown. Actor and environmentalist Jane Fonda will also be taking part.

2. KOOZA
Where: Concord Pacific Place
When: Oct. 29
Cirque du Soleil's familiar yellow-and-blue big top returns to stage its critically acclaimed show, KOOZA, which, since it debuted in 2007, has been performed more than 2,700 times in 47 cities around the world. Tickets on sale now.

3. Velopalooza
Where: Various locations
When: June 12-28
The two-week festival of all things bicycle starts Friday and features 80 events, including a number of group rides exploring different parts of the city's culture. It kicks off Friday with a barbecue at Kits Beach at 8 p.m.

4. Best of Hot Docs
Where: Vancity Theatre
When: June 12-16

The Vancouver International Film Festival and Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival present the return of Bell Media Best of Hot Docs, a selection of 10 films screenings, including For Grace, Rolling Papers, Live from New York!, Unbranded, Speed Sisters and many more.

5. FIFA Women's World Cup
Where: B.C. Place, Larwill Park
When: Now-July 5
The Women's World Cup continues in Vancouver, with matches and a free city- and FIFA-run fan zone at Larwill Park. The fan zone is open June 11 and 12.

6. Aunt Biddy's Wake
Where: Columbia Theatre, Laff Lines Comedy Club in New Westminster
When: June 12 and 13, doors at 6:30 p.m. show at 7:30 p.m.
Tickets: $20 in advance, $25 at the door
Aunt Biddy's family and friends are set to reveal the deceased's many secrets in this hilarious Irish celebration of life. The show is fully interactive.

7. Italian Day on the Drive
Where: Commercial Drive
When: June 14, 12 p.m.-8 p.m.
The festival features, art, music, dance and food, lots of food.

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City council hashes out regulations on pot shops

MARIJUANA

Ban on edibles proved to be contentious issue at hearing

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

It's not every day groups of people light spliffs on the front steps of city hall, but it's not every day city council deliberates becoming the first government in Canada to bring pot shops into a legal framework.

Vancouver city council started hashing out the details of regulating marijuana-related businesses on Wednesday evening, the beginning of what will be a marathon public hearing over whether the city should create rules for businesses that are selling an illegal product.

More than 160 people showed up for a chance to speak about the proposed rules, which have been strongly condemned by the federal government.

But with 94 pot shops in June — up from 60 in January — city manager Dr. Penny Ballem said the city has to do something to deal with the sprouting number of businesses. It recommends, among other things, a $30,000 fee and only allowing shops in locations 300 metres away from schools, community centres and other marijuana shops.

These rules will force some longtime dispensaries to close or relocate, but the city doesn't intend to budge.

"Some people think we're too strict and some people's input is that we're too lenient," Ballem said. "This is the early days in a precedent setting regulatory framework that just doesn't exist anywhere else in Canada … we're trying to keep it simple."

A man waves a marijuana flag outside Vancouver City Hall on Wednesday, where council started hashing out details of regulating marijuana-related businesses. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

The city wants to make sure marijuana is safely available for patients while not being advertised to youth, and also make it fair to other retailers who pay fees and follow health, fire and sign bylaws.

It will not look into how the dispensaries get their marijuana.

"We're not able to regulate the product so it's irrelevant to us whether or not they have a Health Canada licence," Ballem said.

> **Some people think we're too strict and some people's input is that we're too lenient.**
> Dr. Penny Ballem

But the most contentious rule proved to be the ban on edibles. Vancouver Coastal Health medical health officer Dr. Patricia Daly said edibles are riskier — of the 54 visits to St. Paul's Hospital after the 420 festivities, 76 per cent were sick from eating, not smoking, the drug — and too appealing to children.

"We don't do that for any other medicine. We don't make them look like candies," Daly said, although she strongly supported the regulations in general.

Only five people spoke by Metro's deadline. One opposed the regulations on behalf of Smart Approaches to Marijuana Canada — Connor Fesenmaier suggested councillors could be charged with conspiring to break federal laws — while four supported the rules except for the ban on edibles.

"It's great that you're not buying into the federal government and demonizing medical marijuana," said dispensary owner Oana Nicoara. "But banning edibles is not the way to go."

STANLEY CUP

Few riot cases still open, says Crown

British Columbia's Criminal Justice Branch says prosecutors are getting close to wrapping up cases against hundreds of people charged after Vancouver's Stanley Cup riot four years ago.

Police have so far forwarded 366 reports to prosecutors, resulting in 887 criminal charges.

Crown spokesman Gordon Comer said 285 of the 300 people charged pleaded guilty, seven were convicted and one was acquitted. Charges were not approved against 66 others.

He said charges were stayed against four others, a decision against two people will be announced in September and that a warrant remains outstanding against a woman who returned to Australia.

"There are 11 people awaiting sentencing and there are two people who are awaiting a verdict," he said.

The branch has not received any reports since last October from police recommending charges, and Comer said he's not expecting any more.

He said a substantial number of Crown lawyers have worked full time on the files for a few years, and the branch has spent nearly $4.5 million pursuing prosecutions stemming from the riot.

He said that amount covers just prosecution services, such as Crown lawyers and administrative staff, and do not include investigation or court costs.

The riot broke out on June 15, 2011, after the Vancouver Canucks lost to the Boston Bruins in Game 7 of the Stanley Cup final.

Cars were burned, windows smashed, and stores looted along several blocks of the downtown core, causing millions of dollars in damage.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

DEVELOPMENT

Agency chooses seven sites for affordable housing

The newly minted Vancouver Affordable Housing Agency has selected seven city-owned sites to build affordable housing projects with 800 units, but it will need to secure at least $250 million from other partners if it wants to make the projects a reality, city council heard on Wednesday.

The sites — five in the East Fraser Lands, one in Kensington-Cedar Cottage and one in the Downtown Eastside — have potential for increased density, are financial feasible and are immediately available for development, chief housing officer Mukhtar Latif said.

The affordable housing agency, VAHA, has $62 million from the capital budget to spend on land to be contributed for affordable housing projects. It plans to build 810 rental units on these sites, 45 per cent of which will be large enough for families. It wants to rent over half at subsided rates, 31 per cent at affordable market rents and 15 per cent at welfare rates of $375 per month.

But for these plans to come to fruition, it needs to leverage between $250 million and $300 million from developers, housing operators, senior governments, charities, financial institutions and pension funds, Latif said.

Developers have expressed interest, he said, because they recognize the need for affordable housing and they can still make a profit through construction contracts.

To meet provincial housing income limit standards in a greater number of units, Latif acknowledged the province would have to provide additional rent subsidies, yet in an emailed statement attributed to the Ministry Responsible for Housing, a spokesperson said the province has not been approached by the city regarding its plan to build more affordable housing.

"We of course look forward to evaluating any proposals brought forward by the city," according to the statement.

The ministry highlighted its contributions to the city thus far, including $300 million for 1,500 supportive housing units. Last year, it paid $112 million on subsidized housing and rent supplements for 26,000 low-income people in Vancouver.
EMILY JACKSON/METRO

A room in the Kettle Friendship Society's 16-storey building at 1134 Burrard St., one of 14 supportive housing sites built by B.C. Housing and the city. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

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‘We need to do better’

TRANSIT

TransLink CEO offers apology, but no refunds after shutdown

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

TransLink has acknowledged its response to service disruptions needs improving, after Tuesday’s SkyTrain shutdown left commuters stranded during rush hour.

Interim CEO Doug Allen told media that the latest disruption was caused by an induction motor malfunction on a train near Nanaimo Station, which caused it and 18 other trains to time out along the Expo line and disrupt service for over two hours.

Allen said attendants were able to physically get to most of the trains within 20 minutes, to assist passengers and manually guide the trains to a station, but that still wasn’t adequate.

“We should be able to get to every train that needs attendants in 20 minutes. Yesterday, we got to 15 of the 19, but that’s not good enough,” said Allen. “Simply, we need to do better to meet (customers’) service needs.”

According to Allen, TransLink is already in the midst of hiring 64 new SkyTrain attendants by October to ensure there is enough staff to meet their response targets in the event of a system-wide disruption.

And, based on the recommendations made by former Toronto GO Transit CEO Gary McNeil after two SkyTrain failures last summer, the transit authority is also upgrading the public address systems on board trains, strengthening its control centre and developing new service commitments.

“Our issue (on Tuesday), in my mind, is that we still don’t have the proper allocation of staff among stations to be able to respond in 20 minutes,” said Allen. “I realize that doesn’t help (commuters stranded on Tuesday), but that’s all part of the greater plan of providing better service at stations.”

McNeil, coincidentally, was back in Vancouver this week to check up on TransLink’s progress on his 2014 report and was able to witness Tuesday’s disruption, and the response, first-hand.

Asked by media for a letter grade, McNeil offered TransLink a “C” for its latest response.

“I think there is a marked improvement,” he said. “But as Doug Allen indicated, is it good enough? No, it’s not good enough yet. Again, it comes back to how quickly you can respond and get out to the trains and deal with people.”

On behalf of TransLink, Allen apologized and thanked transit users for their patience.

But unlike the 12-hour service disruption on May 22, the authority is will not be offering refunds and reimbursement for affected customers.

TransLink interim CEO Doug Allen speaks to media outside Waterfront Station in Vancouver on Wednesday, a day after SkyTrain service was disrupted during rush hour. MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

STUDY

B.C. student researching impact of social media on teens’ ability to empathize

A University of Victoria doctoral student is investigating how Twitter and Instagram are changing how much teenagers care.

Rebeccah Nelems has been awarded $180,000 to study empathy in Canadian youth as they use social media to connect not only with local friends, but peers around the world.

She says the possibility teens are becoming less empathetic makes it important to examine what problems are cropping up, as well as potential solutions.

Nelems will also look into how teens’ changing levels of empathy affects their beliefs about being a responsible citizen and civic engagement.

She is one of 16 Canadians who won a scholarship from the Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation to research topics in the social sciences and humanities.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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metro

Power, politics and Solomon

MEDIA

CBC severs ties with host after allegations of impropriety

Among the dwindling stars at the beleaguered CBC, it seemed the public broadcaster could bank on at least one: Evan Solomon.

The anchor of CBC News Network's daily political series Power & Politics and Radio One's flagship political program The House had long been a rising luminary and was widely considered to be a possible successor to Peter Mansbridge.

His marquee status was backed by everything one would look for in a CBC personality: a long resume of TV and radio hosting gigs; field experience extending to federal elections, budgets and foreign stints around the world; and a confidence in interviews with prime ministers, world leaders and U.S. presidents.

"It's not who I admire (and there are many, many great journalists working today who I could name), but it's what I admire," Solomon told the Ottawa Citizen of his professional drive in an April 24 article available online.

"I admire journalists who break stories, make news and don't follow the pack. One thing that isn't going out of style: good journalism."

The marathoner is a best-selling author, a children's book writer, a one-time magazine publisher, and a family man. His rise from CBC golden boy to established figurehead seemed assured — until Tuesday.

CBC severed ties with Solomon an hour after Torstar News Service alleged he took advantage of his position to broker lucrative art deals between a friend and wealthy interview subjects.

Power and politics, indeed.

Solomon has denied any wrongdoing and has turned to his union, the Canadian Media Guild, to examine his options.

But it's an undeniable blow to what had been a relatively unblemished career, and certainly to his post as a watchdog. THE CANADIAN PRESS

"It is a privilege to have two hours a day on CBC News Network and on CBC Radio One to hold our leaders to account.

Evan Solomon, told the University of Calgary's online magazine UToday in a post dated March 26.

Evan Solomon is seen in this undated handout photo. The CBC says it has "ended its relationship" with Solomon, one of its best-known on-air news personalities. HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

DETAILS

Beginnings of a CBC star

Evan Solomon launched into the spotlight as co-founder of the tech-and-culture magazine Shift. He was the editor-in-chief from 1992 to 1999.

From there, he went on to helm several youth and tech-oriented shows for the CBC, which capitalized on Solomon's youthful energy as TV newsrooms chased younger viewers.

Solomon's shows included CBC's six-part writers-and-thinkers series The Changemakers, Newsworld's technology show Futureworld, the PBS co-production Masters of Technology, and Newsworld's culture and ideas show Hot Type.

He shifted to broader news fare when he was named co-host of the weekly news and current affairs shows CBC News: Sunday and CBC News: Sunday Night. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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IN BRIEF

U.S. deploys troops to Iraq
President Barack Obama ordered the deployment of up to 450 more U.S. troops to Iraq on Wednesday in an effort to reverse major battlefield losses to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), an escalation but not a significant shift in the struggling U.S. strategy to defeat ISIL.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Eurojust authorities arrest dozens over fraud scam
EU police have arrested dozens of suspects in an international investigation into a cybercrime gang that siphoned millions of euros from victims' accounts in an identity fraud scam. The culprits stole victims' usernames and passwords using a process known as phishing.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EGYPT

Suicide bomber dies in attack on temple

A suicide bomber blew himself up Wednesday close to the ancient pharaonic temple of Karnak in southern Egypt, a site visited by millions every year, the government said. No tourists were hurt, and the Nile-side monument was not damaged.

The attack was the second this month near a major tourist attraction in Egypt, marking a shift in tactics in a campaign of violence waged by Islamic militants against the government of President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi. The attacks suggest extremists are shifting from shootings and bombings of security forces to targeting Egypt's vital industry.

The industry is only just beginning to recover from the turmoil in the country since 2011. On June 3, gunmen on a motorcycle opened fire outside the famed Giza Pyramids on the outskirts of Cairo, killing two police officers.

In Wednesday's violence, officials said security at Karnak prevented the suicide bomber from entering the temple complex, and their forces battled two gunmen who were with him, killing one and capturing the other. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police resume search for escaped convicts

PRISON BREAK

No sign of either man on fifth day of manhunt

Police in body armour resumed house-to-house searches near the maximum-security prison in northern New York where two killers escaped using power tools, authorities said Wednesday.

On the fifth day of looking for David Sweat and Richard Matt, state police said the house searches aren't the result of any new leads and law enforcement is retracing its steps in Dannemora, just over 30 kilometres from the Canadian border.

"They'll be doing a 100 per cent sweep from the prison right out," said David Favro, the sheriff for Clinton County, where the prison is located.

Law-enforcement officials reiterated their plea for the public's help in reporting anything unusual in the area.

"We don't want them out searching the woods," Favro said. "If you're sitting on your porch, get your binoculars out and see if you see something unusual."

Sweat, 34, and Matt, 48, cut through a steel wall, broke through bricks and crawled through a steam pipe before emerging through a manhole outside the prison grounds.

They were discovered missing early Saturday after stuffing their beds with clothes to fool guards, leaving behind a taunting note: "Have a nice day."

There was speculation that the inmates had arranged for someone to pick them up outside the prison and were long gone from the area, even in Canada or as far as Mexico.

Sweat was convicted in the 2002 killing of a sheriff's deputy and was doing life without parole. Matt was serving 25 years to life for kidnapping and dismembering his boss in 1997.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

N.Y. governor Andrew Cuomo, left, speaks while Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin listens during a news conference at Clinton Correctional Facility on Wednesday. SETH WENIG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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INDONESIA HIGH ALERT North Sumatra's Mount Sinabung spews material from its crater Wednesday after authorities issued the highest alert level last week. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pope targets bad bishops

VATICAN

New tribunal would judge crimes that involve minors

Pope Francis took the biggest step yet to crack down on bishops who cover up for priests who rape and molest children, creating a new tribunal section inside the Vatican to hear cases of bishops accused of failing to protect their flock.

The initiative, announced Wednesday, has significant legal and theological implications. Bishops have long been considered masters of their dioceses and largely unaccountable when they bungled their job. The Vatican stepped in only in cases of gross negligence.

That reluctance to intervene has prompted years of criticism from abuse victims, advocacy groups and others that the Vatican had failed to punish or forcibly remove bishops who moved predator priests from parish to parish, rather than report them to police or remove them from the ministry.

The Vatican said Francis had approved proposals made by his sexual-abuse advisory board, which includes survivors of abuse as well as experts in child protection policies. They call for a new mechanism by which the Vatican can receive and examine complaints of "abuse of office" by bishops and bring them to trial in a Vatican tribunal.

A special new judicial section, with permanent staff, will be created inside the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith "to judge bishops with regard to crimes of the abuse of office when connected to the abuse of minors," a Vatican statement said.

Details must still be worked out, including possible punishments and the statute of limitations to determine whether negligence by bishops dating back 20 or 30 years can now be heard. The congregation currently reviews all cases of priests who have abused minors and the statute of limitations is 20 years, though the congregation can waive that limit.

> **Let's be prudent, stay vigilant and withhold judgment.**
> David Clohessy of SNAP

"Really pleased the Holy Father has approved our proposal," commission member Marie Collins, herself a survivor of abuse, said in an email.

The main U.S. victims group SNAP was more cautious, noting that there are bishops currently in office who have delayed reporting abuse and yet remain unpunished. "In the face of this widespread denial, timidity and inaction, let's be prudent, stay vigilant and withhold judgment until we see if and how this panel might act," said SNAP's David Clohessy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GEORGIA

Abortion-pill murder charge dropped

A Georgia prosecutor dropped a murder charge Wednesday against a 23-year-old woman whose arrest after taking pills to end her pregnancy baffled even abortion opponents.

Dougherty County District Attorney Greg Edwards issued a statement saying he had dismissed a malice murder charge against 23-year-old Kenlissia Jones, who spent about three days in jail before she was released.

Edwards said Jones still faces a misdemeanour charge of possession of a dangerous drug.

Abortion-rights advocates and opponents of abortion alike had said they were stunned by the murder charge. Georgia has prohibited the prosecution of women for feticide or for performing illegal abortions in cases involving their own pregnancies. After reviewing the law, Edwards said he reached the same conclusion.

Jones was arrested Saturday at the hospital where she sought help after a county social-services worker called police, according to an Albany police report.

A hospital social worker told police that Jones had taken four Cytotec pills that she ordered online and delivered her fetus after breaking up with her boyfriend.

The social worker told police Jones went into labour and delivered the fetus in a car on the way to the hospital. The fetus did not survive.

Cytotec is a brand name for misoprostol, a prescription drug used in combination with mifepristone to induce non-surgical abortions. The pills are sold with prescriptions in the United States but are available over the counter and online in many countries.

The police report does not say how far along Jones was in her pregnancy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Prepare for the Doughnairnut

Zane Woodford
Metro | Halifax

It's the Haligonian concoction that's taking the Internet by storm: the Doughnairnut.

"It started out as a joke and then everybody got really excited, so we just decided to make it happen," said Kaleigh Burns, owner of Robie Street Station in Halifax.

The eatery has been making doughnuts on weekends for two months. After last weekend's Samoan doughnut was mistaken on Twitter for a Samosa doughnut, Burns joked about a donair doughnut, and the rest is history.

The Doughnairnut is a collaboration between Robie Street Station and next-door neighbour Tony's Donair.

It's a yeast doughnut glazed with Tony's donair sauce, topped with Tony's donair meat and sprinkled with the works: diced tomatoes, green onions and a drizzling of more donair sauce.

Burns whipped up a prototype Tuesday morning and shared it on social media, garnering hundreds of shares and likes.

Burns will put together 200 of the doughnuts for this weekend, and sell them for $4 each. She said doughnuts are always a hit at the diner, and she expects to move through the whole batch.

"I expect this one to do better than all the ones before," she said.

A Robie Street Station Doughnairnut is shown, ready to be served on Wednesday in Halifax. JEFF HARPER/METRO

IN BRIEF

Scientists call for oilsands moratorium

A group of 100 leading Canadian and U.S. scientists has issued an urgent call for a moratorium on new oilsands development. Economists, biologists, climatologists and political scientists have all signed a latter, which has been sent to Prime Minister Stephen Harper and all members of Parliament. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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People carry luggage at Pearson International Airport in Toronto. MARK BLINCH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Air Canada, WestJet nix carry-on limits

TRAVEL

Carriers won't follow others in reducing cabin bag size

Air Canada and Westjet say they won't reduce the size of permitted carry-on luggage to go along with new voluntary international guidelines.

Air Canada, which requires passengers to check baggage larger than its maximum carry-on dimensions, said Wednesday it is satisfied with its luggage size rules but supports the general concept of industry harmonization.

"It would be easier if everyone drove on the same side of the road, and most people would agree with that," Air Canada spokesman Peter Fitzpatrick said in an email. "The debate is over which side that should be, and that could go on a very long time and is ultimately speculative."

The International Air Transport Association says many airlines have agreed to reduce the size of carry-on bags to optimize cabin storage space.

Bags measuring no more than 21.5 x 13.5 x 7.5 inches (55 x 35 x 20 centimetres) will be tagged with an "IATA Cabin OK" logo.

The dimensions are slightly smaller than what is permitted on Air Canada and WestJet flights. Air Canada's bag must be no larger than 21.5 x 15.5 x 9 inches. WestJet's limits are slightly smaller at 21 x 15 x 9 inches.

> **It would be easier if everyone drove on the same side of the road ... The debate is over which side that should be.**
> Air Canada spokesman Peter Fitzpatrick

"Currently we have no plans to change our carry-on allowance size," said WestJet spokeswoman Brie Thorstenson Ogle in an email. "However, we evaluate and evolve guidelines when necessary to ensure they meet the necessary requirements for our guests and our operations."

IATA says the new carry-on bag size is intended to bring "common sense and order" to the problem of differing sizes.

"We know the current situation can be frustrating for passengers," senior vice-president Tom Windmuller said in a news release. "This work will help to iron out inconsistencies."

Fitzpatrick said Air Canada's larger carry-on baggage dimensions means anyone flying on planes following IATA guidelines will meet the airline's size requirements for carry-ons. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Thursday, June 11, 2015

THE BIG THING: MILLENNIAL-SPEAK

Taco Bell CEO Brian Niccol has made a concerted effort to get the company's staff to connect with its young customer base. Each week, they receive an email with a new vocabulary word curated by a group of 20-somethings and designed to help older folks keep up. Opinions are mixed as to whether this is a business-savvy way to engage the next generation of spenders or a desperate move best described with a word that transcends generations: LAME. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bible Dat...Doe Basic AF So. Many. Feels. On fleek BOOM. #TBT Lit Throwing Bae Shade

#TBT
A term nostalgia-prone millennials use on social media for "throwback Thursday."

Lit
Awesome, crazy, busy, hopping. "That party was lit." When used to describe a person, "lit" means drunk or high.

Bae
A synonym for "baby" and acronym for "before anyone else," popularized by a Pharrell Williams song.

On fleek
A variation of the more common "on point," meaning very stylish and refined. This neologism came from the video-sharing site Vine. "Shoe game on fleek."

Feels
Intense emotions. "This story about a blind goat with a seeing-eye dog is giving me All. The. Feels."

Throwing shade
Hurling insults in a highly skilful and passive-aggressive manner. This term originated in the drag community.

"I love how much you don't care about how you look."

"Ooh, throwing shade."

AF
An intensifier used primarily in texting and social media. Short for "as f--k," as in "dumb AF," "cute AF," "crazy AF."

Boom
An expression of emphasis; a four-letter statement of "I rest my case."

Basic
A description of someone, especially a woman, whose taste is so generic that she possesses no personality of her own. "Kayla loves Starbucks and scented candles. She's so basic. "

Dat...doe An alternative to "that..though." Used to bookend in constructions that point out general awesomeness, especially in relation to something cute online. "Dat kitten doe."

Bible A short form for "I swear on the Bible," for which we have the Kardashians to thank. "I don't have any homework today. Bible!"

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

As attention to a women's issue goes, we choose poorly

It's been two weeks of Caitlyn Jenner. Are we done yet?

Buckets of ink and hours of airtime and seemingly endless web pages have dissected and pontificated on every possible angle: that she's a trans hero, that she represents an elite trans experience, that she's sexy, that she's been treated with sexism by the media, that she's a bad feminist (if a feminist at all) for coming out as a sex kitten, that she's a bad woman for embodying worn stereotypes of the so-called weaker sex.

Are you tired of it yet? I am.

As far as extended public attention to a women's cause goes, we chose poorly, friends.

The time we have devoted to that slick cover, and the effort we all took to really understand what it meant, has far outlasted what it deserved.

Meanwhile, we could have been writing about Chelsey Buchanan, a Halifax woman who's opened her home to abortion seekers from P.E.I., where there's no access to surgical abortions. Or writing about the war on abortion clinics in the U.S.

We might have dissected the recent words of a British Nobel scientist who called co-ed labs bad for science, because women are distracting to men.

Our energies could have been turned to research from Columbia Business School that says women's absence in boardrooms isn't due to female competitiveness but to implicit company gender quotas. (In 2013, the Conference Board of Canada felt the need to argue the "business case" for women on company boards, as if we could be bad for the bottom line.)

If feminist reading is what you're after, why not disappear into the New Yorker's lengthy look at Angela Merkel, often the only female face in photo-ops of the world's most powerful leaders?

Jenner is so very far from the most important fodder for a debate on the state of feminism. Try: women earn one quarter less than men in Ontario; more than 3,000 women in Canada seek emergency shelter from domestic abuse on any given day; we account for 25 per cent of parliamentarians; globally, girls are twice as likely to be malnourished.

Yes, Jenner's was a dramatic reveal. Yes, it's good to put trans issues in the spotlight. But her photo op is not a pivotal moment for women.

It's just one very well shot, well-orchestrated and likely high-selling cover from a magazine devoted to opulence, power and sex.

Time, my friends, to move on.

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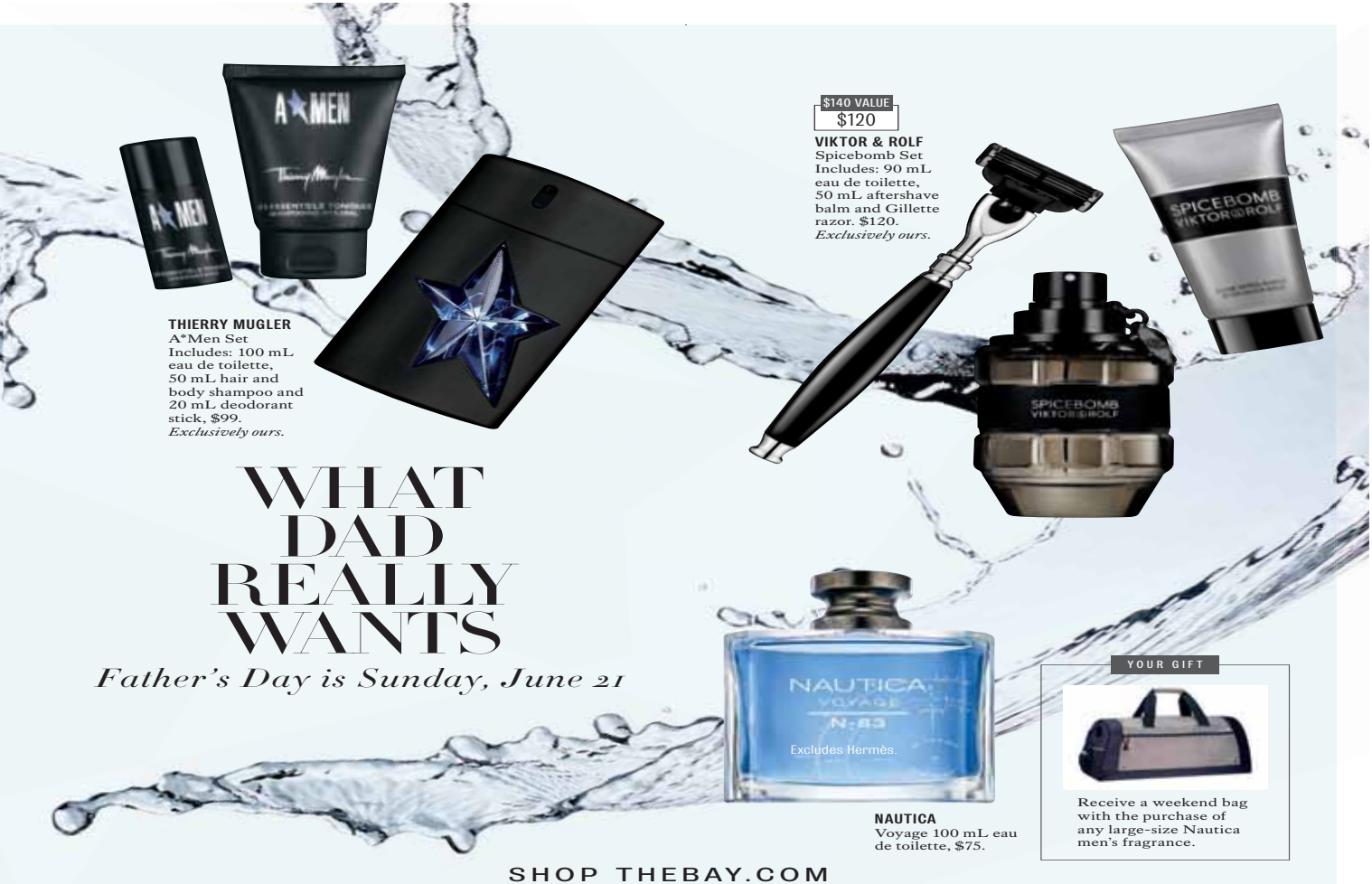

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Good news, travellers: A new study predicts airfares will continue to drop

Floaty, feminine and fierce at Gucci

RESORT COLLECTION

New creative director leans on animal kingdom

In florals that matched the comfy chairs for his guests, in cat-eye glasses and dragonflies and bees and tigers and snakes, Gucci's new creative director Alessandro Michele put on a whimsical, eclectic show Thursday for his first resort collection.

Animal-kingdom adornments, splashes of disco lame, feminine sheers that exposed nipples and both warm and bold purples, yellows and pinks highlighted Michele's 62 looks for men and woman. Ruffles trimmed lady-like suits and high heels were chunky on sparkly mules.

Michele — who replaced Frida Giannini after her departure in January — closed a Chelsea street so the models could cross to the other side and enter his industrial space just as rolling metal gates were lifted. He covered floors with inviting oriental rugs.

The shaggy-haired, big-bearded designer in a slouchy white T-shirt, bracelets and fingers full of rings, greeted guests with warm hugs and a laugh. He said this collection, coming soon after his February debut in Milan, was focused on individual style.

"It's a kind of personal eccentricism," he said in a post-show interview. "It's a mix from the past and the present and from the soul, so you can believe in the way you dress," he said. "Everything matches together in a beautiful way in my mind."

Prepster stripes represented (on a silver bomber jacket he paired with an emerald green lace dress). So did '70s disco. Western-style touches added to his mix.

> **It's a kind of personal eccentricism.**
> Alessandro Michele

One cosy stripe coat was decorated with silver sparkle dragonflies and another was quilted in pale pink, trimmed with fur at the cuffs and worn with a Betty Draper scarf around a model's head. Some dresses flowed in tiers of ruffles while others were neatly pleated.

"It's about that feeling when a beautiful woman, where there's something that you do not expect," Michele said.

Has Michele, who has toiled for Gucci for 12 years, settled into his new role as creative director? He said he's getting there.

"Not quite relaxed," he laughed. "For a big company like Gucci, it's never-ending."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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BOOK NOTES

Newsworthy
Former journalist Linwood Barclay returns to the newsroom with Broken Promises, out July 28, about an unemployed reporter who uncovers some unsettling happenings in his small town, including a serial killer and an ancient Ferris wheel coming to life.
SUE CARTER FOR METRO

Detective work
There are only two months to catch up on Chief Inspector Gamache's sleuthing before the 11th instalment of Louise Penny's bestselling Quebec mystery series, The Nature of the Beast, which arrives Aug. 25. SUE CARTER FOR METRO

Enhanced reading
Have you ever read a novel and thought it would make a great movie? The Booktrack app gets digital multi-taskers one step closer to the big-screen experience by enhancing thousands of ebooks with synchronized soundtracks and ambient sounds.
SUE CARTER FOR METRO

3 CRIME NOVELS TO READ THIS SUMMER

BOOKWORM
Sue Carter

Canada may not have as many big-name marquee crime authors as there are in the U.S. and U.K., but our writers can deliver chilling twists and turns with the best of them (must be the weather). Here are some must-read thrillers, including CanLit selections.

Stephen King's new novel Finders Keepers — a guaranteed must-read for fans of his psychological horror Misery — will no doubt be packed into a lot of beach bags this summer. But for those who like their mystery-thrillers set a little closer to home, there are plenty of options from CanLit writers such as Linwood Barclay, Peter Robinson, Louise Penny and Giles Blunt.

Plot twists in period novel

This historical mystery by U.K.-based author Seán Haldane won the Arthur Ellis Award, Canada's biggest crime-novel prize.

Set in 1860s Victoria, the story follows British police officer Chad Hobbes, who is tasked with solving the violent murder of Dr. McCrory, an American psychiatrist whose unconventional healing methods include "phrenology, Mesmerism and sexual-mystical magnetation." A local medicine man is suspected as the murderer, but Hobbes soon discovers there's more to the case than anyone expected.

Scarier than housing prices

For her debut crime novel, award-winning poet Susan Glickman found inspiration in her own neighbourhood.

Set in Toronto's quiet tree-lined Hillcrest Village, the story follows a woman named Liz who discovers the dead body of a real estate agent near her home.

Liz becomes obsessed with his murder, partnering with a retired professor to solve the mystery, despite the police urging the amateur sleuths to back off.

Mafia Princess in the prairies

Caterina Edwards' latest book may be the first Mafia literary-noir novel ever with ties to Edmonton.

Fulvia, the "Mafia Princess," escapes her dutiful life in Sicily and moves to Alberta, only to have her husband murdered back home.

Through the killing, she becomes connected to Marisa, the investigating chief of police, facing her own troubles as a woman running a station full of male officers who've made it clear they don't want her there.

McDowell on her life 'After Perfect'

INTERVIEW

Daughter of Wall Street criminal tells all in memoir

Emily Laurence
Metro in New York City

Christina McDowell's new novel recounts her father's downfall. HANDOUT

Growing up in an affluent Washington, D.C. suburb, Christina McDowell (née Christina Prousalis) had a picture-perfect life. But at 18, her life came crashing down when her father, Tom Prousalis, was arrested for fraud in connection with the conviction of Jordan Belfort, who was characterized in The Wolf of Wall Street.

McDowell's father went to prison and her family lost everything. She opens up to us about her decision to tell the story from her point of view in her new memoir, After Perfect.

The book is so personal. Was it a difficult decision to be so open?
I started writing my story many, many years ago as a way to process everything that was happening, but I fictionalized it because it was too painful to write any other way. I showed it to a couple of friends and they said, "No, it's not working."

This is a case of life being stranger than fiction. I started collecting letters, emails and everything from that time in my life and it slowly turned into a memoir. For me, it was about healing. It created a pathway to the truth and I learned more about myself than I think I ever intended to.

When The Wolf of Wall Street came out, you wrote an open letter criticizing the film's glorification of greed. Did you see the movie as a mockery of your life?
I just couldn't understand why Martin Scorcese would chose to make a movie about a man who had hurt so many people and exclude the victims. Whether he meant it to or not, it opened up a lot of wounds for many, many people.

> **I do not have a relationship with my father today.**
> Christina McDowell

Learning of your father's crime must have been really confusing for you because you grew up idolizing him quite a bit.
Oh, of course. I think every child can relate to this idea of putting your parents up on a pedestal. I had a really hard time when it happened. It happened when I was 18. At that age, legally you're an adult, but you're not prepared for the real world.

You're really active with InsideOut Writers, a non-profit for incarcerated youth. Do you think your past influenced your decision to work with them?
Absolutely. I relate to them because of my own feeling of abandonment, struggle to survive and being touched by the criminal justice system.

Writing is what healed you, so now you're helping them heal in the same way.
Exactly. Writing is so healing and we use it as a way to transform ourselves. We have the best time.

What is your viewpoint on money and wealth now?
I don't think there's anything wrong with having money or seeking to live a big life, but I do believe in ethical and moral boundaries with money. When you cross an ethical and moral line, that's where greed comes in and I certainly don't believe in living a greedy life.

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Is your festival outfit racist?

CULTURAL APPROPRIATION

There are ways to pay homage and not offend, says historian

Raquel Laneri
Metro | New York

It's music festival season, which means you can expect to see lots of Instagrams of celebs and models wearing all sorts of controversial, culturally inappropriate accessories, like Native American headdresses or South Asian bindis. And no matter how much backlash they face, consumers — and designers — can't seem to stop stealing from other cultures.

Indeed, "appropriation" seems to have reached a fever pitch in fashion: baby hairs on the Givenchy and DKNY runways, "squaw"(!) fashion at Dsquared2, an exact replica of a traditional Oaxacan blouse by French designer Isabel Marant.

"It's been going on for a long time," says historian Valerie Steele, director of the Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology. "But while the feeling that it's a rather problematic phenomenon has existed among scholars, it's been slow to filter down to the fashion world."

> **If you are open and curious and say, 'I admire this, I like it, how can I wear it?' then people will take you seriously and respond to you.**
> Valerie Steele, director of the Museum at the Fashion Institute of Technology

That's partly because designers and tastemakers couched such practices in terms like "multiculturalism" or even "postmodernism."

Yet, says Steele, "it's too easy to say that it was always celebratory — particularly when it's referenced in racist language or done in a way that reinforces cultural stereotypes."

But even without racist language, cultural thievery can still be harmful, whether economically, socially or spiritually. "Many South African designers, for example, are resentful that European designers have appropriated their designs and textiles, and then lumped a variety of different, distinct cultures together under one name," says Steele. And the Australian Aborigines have spoken out about designers blithely using certain patterns that are sacred or that hold special meaning — like the bindi in Hinduism.

The main difference between cultural appropriation then versus now? The Internet has made it much easier for those who feel their culture and traditions threatened to speak out. But, rather than preventing consumers from engaging with another culture's sartorial customs, it actually allows them to do so in a way that's empowering and sensitive.

"If you're a white person, but you really love African Kente cloth — do the research," says Steele. "Ask your African-American friends, 'Will you be offended if I wore this?'" If you can't get African cloth straight from the source, then research brands that employ — and provide a living wage to — craftsmen in that area for its clothes."

Selena Gomez wears a bindi while performing at the 2013 MTV Movie Awards.
KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/GETTY IMAGES

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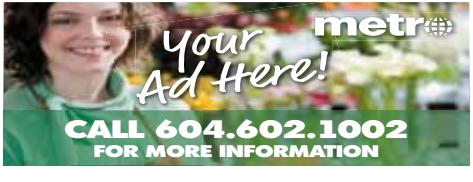

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ODE OR OFFENSIVE?

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PASCAL LE SEGRETAIN/GETTY IMAGES

Dsquared2

Canadian designers Dean and Dan Caten of Dsquared2 showed a collection in Milan they described as "an ode to America's native tribes meets the noble spirit of Old Europe." They came under fire after promoting the show as #Dsquaw on social media.

Givenchy

Givenchy's Fall 2015 collection was called "Victorian Chola," riffing on a Mexican subculture. The word "chola" is problematic because it is said to have been used as a way to describe Mexican immigrants in a derogatory way, wrote style blog Refinery29. METRO

Paltrow's awkward family vacation

SUMMER SLEEPOVER

New partners of uncoupled duo to holiday with the kids

IN HOLLYWOOD
Ned Ehrbar

There's showing off that you're totally OK with your ex-husband dating again, and then there's this, which is just plain weird: Gwyneth Paltrow is planning, depending on whom you talk to, a family vacation where she and Chris Martin each bring along their significant others — Glee co-creator Brad Falchuk for her, Jennifer Lawrence for him — or she's planning an intimate coupes' retreat for the foursome that just so happens to also include their kids.

Either way, yikes.

"Gwyneth recognizes it's time for Jen to meet the whole family, and she wants Chris to be there for Brad's first proper bonding experience with the children," a source tells RadarOnline.

"The plan is to spend a week together in Hawaii as soon as all their schedules permit, but definitely before the end of summer."

If you think this is a terrible idea, Lawrence is apparently right there with you: "Jen is dreading it," the source adds.

"Chris is still spellbound by Gwyneth and her rules, so he's insisting on it."

Happy trails?

"Chris is spellbound by Gwyneth and her rules."
RadarOnline source

Clockwise from top left: Brad Falchuk, Chris Martin, Jennifer Lawrence and Gwyneth Paltrow. ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

DIVORCE RUMOURS

Jen fed up with Ben

This certainly won't help all those divorce rumours swirling around Ben Affleck and Jennifer Garner's marriage. The latest?

"She can't take it anymore. She's been consulting with a high-profile divorce lawyer," a source tells Life & Style, adding that while Garner was in Montreal recently for work, "she got a call that Ben was 40 minutes late to pick up the kids from school. She had to scramble to arrange another ride for them."

While that might not seem like a major infraction, it's apparently one of those last-straw situations.

"She doesn't trust Ben alone with the kids," the source says. "Custody is not negotiable."

This sounds like it will be the opposite of fun.

GOSSIPGIRL SMACKDOWN

Mindy handles heat

The folks over at GossipGirl.com went a bit out of their way to call out Mindy Kaling for her fashion choices by dubbing her a "hot mess."

Oh, and they even snuck in a little dig at her fans, writing, "Mindy Kaling is one of those 'woman of the people' types who basics find soooooo hilars."

That stings, Gossip Girl. That really stings.

Anyway, Kaling herself was more than able to defend herself, tweeting back simply, "Whoa, you guys are d—s."

And she has a point.

XOXO.

GOSSIP NOTES

The Glee tell-all you never asked for is coming

And they say publishing is a dying industry.

Naya Rivera just inked a deal to have a "memoir" published in spring 2016 with the snappy title Sorry Not Sorry: Dream, Mistakes and Growing Up.

Rivera promises "so many juicy stories about my life. Glee, guys, growing up and so much more," while the publisher pitches it as "candid thoughts on topics ranging from dating to the challenges of being mixed race in Hollywood."

So if you're one of those unique folks who is desperate for tawdry behind-the-scenes tales from Glee, but you're also willing to wait about a year, then this is great news for you.

Naya Rivera

Michael Jackson fans try to stop Neverland sale

Michael Jackson's fans are not thrilled about plans to unload the late singer's most notable asset, the Neverland Ranch near Santa Barbara, Calif.

They're so incensed, actually, that they've started a petition to halt a potential sale.

"Neverland, Michael Jackson's house, is one of the most important places for Michael Jackson's fans," the petition, already signed by nearly 8,000 fans, reads. "It's one of the reminders that we have of Michael."

The attempts to petition Jackson's estate, however, have been a bit misguided, since the property is actually owned by Colony Capital.

"It's one of the reminders we have of Michael."
Petition to halt the sale of Neverland

"As has been said in previous statements from the Estate, both to the media and to the fan community, the Estate is very disappointed over the decision by Colony Capital to sell Neverland," a spokesman says.

"Unfortunately, that does not change the reality that the Estate is not in a position to stop the sale of the property."

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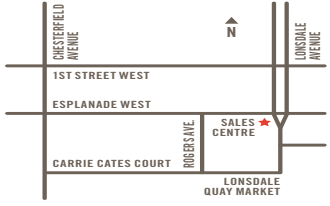

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What they're a$king

This week, we looked for the smallest condos we could find in town. Designed with investors in mind, or for those looking to get into their first condo purchase or a pied-à-terre. **Duncan McAllister** FOR METRO

OUR CITY

$178,900

Vancouver

Located at 212 Forbes Ave., this 490-sq. ft., one-bedroom suite is in trendy "LoLo," an area in North Vancouver called Lower Lonsdale. The Forbes Manor suite would make a perfect pied-à-terre and has great views of the harbour and sunsets. The living room opens out to a spacious, southwest-facing balcony. The suite features bamboo laminate floors and a stylish bathroom with double vanity. With a walk score of 83, it's close to the Lonsdale Quay Market, Waterfront Park and the SeaBus. The listing agent is Shirley Lord with Sutton Group — West Coast (Broadway), 604-760-2012.

$209,900

Halifax

This 529-sq. ft. studio condo in the new Gladstone Ridge Development is on the Halifax Peninsula and just a few blocks from the hip Hydrostone Market. The 10th-floor suite features floor-to-ceiling windows, a maple kitchen with five appliances and a laundry room with a washer and dryer. The complex includes an outdoor pool, a fitness studio, and landscaped grounds with outdoor garden plots and a car wash station. Listing agent is Cheryl Jenkins from Keller Williams Select Realty, 902-403-6655.

$117,500

Calgary

An affordable, well-kept condo in the Applewood community offers all the basic amenities in a compact design of 258 sq. ft. It would make a great home base for someone looking to downsize. The suite includes a stove, clean fridge, well-maintained washer and dryer, and Beechwood countertop. The unit features durable tile and hardwood flooring and a private balcony on the top floor of a clean and quiet pet-friendly building. For sale by owner through the Comfree Commonsense Network, 403-589-1915.

$144,900

Edmonton

Here's a top-floor, 538-sq. ft., spacious one-bedroom, one-bathroom condo suite that's close to everything: downtown, shopping, and public transit. The renovated unit has a large living room and access to the balcony that spans the length of the condo. The galley-style kitchen has plenty of cupboard space and opens into an eating nook. The building features a laundry room and assigned parking. Brent MacIntosh is a sales representative with Re/Max River City, 780-445-0091.

$99,000

Winnipeg

Here's a great deal on a 550-sq. ft. unit that proves you can still get a condo for less than $100,000. This trendy condo has been extensively renovated and contains new Kitchen Craft cabinets, granite countertops, and stainless-steel appliances. The bathroom has a funky, claw-foot bathtub, and the living room features a wall of exposed brick that perfectly suits the minimalist, industrial decor. Listing agent is Scott Moore, a sales representative with Realty Executives Premiere, 204-995-7355.

$324,900

Toronto

Here's a one-bedroom lower penthouse in the Liberty Village neighbourhood. The unit includes parking and a locker. This highly walkable community is close to grocery stores, restaurants, Starbucks and an LCBO. At 499 sq. ft., it's a nice size for a single or working couple. The condo features views of the lake and access to the streetcar and Gardiner Expressway. Amenities include a gym, swimming pool, media room and outdoor patio with barbecue. Listing agent Alex J. Wilson is with Re/Max Condos Plus, 416-996-5181.

Ask a designer: make room work

HOW TO

Furniture arrangement makes or breaks a space

Sometimes the way to improve a room isn't to buy new furniture: it's to rearrange pieces you already own.

"Changing up the placement of your furniture can make a massive difference," says designer Brian Patrick Flynn, founder of Flynnside Out Productions. Adding, subtracting or relocating furniture, he says, affects "how natural light plays in the space and also how frequently the room gets used. By simply adding a bench to a wall, a room can become more of a hangout." Removing a few pieces to create more space "can make it feel a bit more casual and informal."

How do professionals map out a furniture plan, choosing the best location for each item? Flynn and two other interior designers — Dan Faires, host of HGTV's DanMade, and Betsy Burnham of the California-based design firm Burnham Design — share advice:

Analyze your space

Begin by deciding how the room will be used, Burnham says, and consider any quirks: Are there lots of windows or doors? Unique architectural items such as a fireplace or beautiful windows with a view? A particular piece of furniture or art that you want visitors to notice?

A strategic furniture layout turns a large room into two cosy conversation spaces. CHRISTOPHER PATEY/BURNHAM DESIGN VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Depending on the answers, Flynn likes to choose one "standout feature" and then arrange furniture in a way that highlights it.

Also, says Burnham, "lighting can direct a furniture plan." Is there a lot of natural light or will you need plenty of lamps? Are there built-in sconces or a central chandelier?

Allow space

Don't skimp on empty space. "I always allow a minimum of 18 inches between sofas and coffee tables," Faires says, "and 3 to 5 feet for walk spaces. The flow and negative space in a room is as important as the overall function and the furniture" because it makes the space feel more open, uncluttered and inviting.

Consider the size and placement of rugs. "I cannot imagine designing a living-room space with a rug any smaller than an 8-by-10," Faires says. "The rug is meant to unify the entire space and connect furniture pieces together, so a good rule of thumb is that at least the front legs of any sofas or chairs in the living room should be on the rug. For a larger area rug, allow at least 18 inches from the edge of the rug to the wall."

In very large rooms or loft spaces, rugs can help define small areas and make the space feel organized.

"To keep everything balanced while visually separating each zone, use area rugs in co-ordinating colours with slightly different textures and patterns," Flynn says.

Break the rules

While some symmetry is important to "ground a furniture plan," Burnham says, mixing in a little asymmetry "makes for a much more interesting room."

If she flanks a sofa with matching end tables and table lamps, "we may balance the grouping with mismatched chairs and a standing lamp."

Remember, you don't have to place furniture along walls.

"Furniture in the middle of the room helps highlight architectural features and also aids in proper movement throughout the space," Flynn says.

Placing furniture away from walls also works well in spaces that have lots of doors, or soaring windows that shouldn't be obstructed.

And not every living room needs a sofa. Burnham suggests trying "an unusual layout, like a living room with four lounge chairs around a centre coffee table."

Use unexpected pieces, such as "a library table stacked with books in a wide hallway, or two area rugs instead of one to define spaces within a bedroom," she says. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A living room anchored with a generously sized round coffee table and a large pendant fixture puts scale and proportion to use. RUSTIC WHITE PHOTOGRAPHY/BRIAN PATRICK FLYNN VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Potted plants to attract pollinators

GARDENING

Small areas for insects suit cities where space is tight

Even a little effort — a potted plant, say, on an apartment balcony — can mean a lot when trying to help restore declining pollinator populations, such as bees, bats, and butterflies.

"Every contribution is worthwhile," said Victoria Wojcik, research director for the Pollinator Partnership in Toronto. "You're making a better environment for pollinators, no matter how small."

Butterflies and other pollinators don't need large areas for foraging but they do need a flower, she said.

A bee visits a potted chive assortment. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"A planter on a balcony, even on the 30th floor — they will find it and visit it," she said. "If people do this all over the city, it will definitely help."

Pollination is needed by at least 80 per cent of the world's crop species. Wind does the job for numerous plants, notably grasses, while many others are served by a variety of animal pollinators.

Both sides benefit. Wildlife feed on the pollen and flower syrup while helping their plant partners reproduce.

But changing land use, viruses and pesticides are being blamed for massive pollinator losses — especially among the 4,000 native bee species in the United States and the thousands of managed stocks of non-native honeybees.

Enter pollinator planting.

"Native plants attract native pollinator species," said Kari Houle, an extension educator with the University of Illinois. "Know which are suitable for your growing zone. Find a beneficial fit."

She suggests a number of pollinator-friendly annuals for container use: alyssum, cleome, flax, lantana, snapdragon and zinnia, among them.

Select different flower sizes and shapes to match pollinator-feeding habits.

"Butterflies like places to sit," Wojcik said. "Hummingbirds like bugle-shaped plants. Fragrant, sweet-smelling flowers attract night-flying creatures like bats and moths."

Certain flower colours are pollinator magnets. Bees seem to like bright whites and yellows, while butterflies appear drawn to reds and purples.

"Vegetables do extremely well in pots, particularly cucumbers and tomatoes," Wojcik said. "Bumblebees love (gathering pollen from) tomatoes. They're uniquely adapted to that." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE BUZZ ON POLLINATOR PLANTING

More tips for attracting bees, butterflies

- Use succession planting to provide pollen and nectar from early spring to late fall. Spring is an important season — especially for overwintering honeybees — because their food stocks of honey are low, and spring-blooming flowers are harder to find. That could mean tolerating dandelions, a favourite pollen source.
- Place containers in full sun and shelter them from high winds. Include water on the menu by adding a birdbath or dripping faucet.
- Choose double-duty plants, such as colourful edibles.
- Stop using pesticides.
- Provide host plants, such as milkweed, that are popular with Monarch butterfly larvae. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Kitsilano success — only 4 houses remain

The new standard of Kitsilano living

Day-to-day pleasures are often found in the details — a crisp beach breeze from your balcony, the scent of fresh flowers from Granville Island Market, a hot bath and a glass of wine.

West Five, a new collection of high-end homes at Burrard and West 5th in Vancouver, delivers the subtle, everyday luxuries home-buyers will appreciate. Every feature of the homes, curated by local interior design firm Cutler, incorporates rich colours and luxe materials that please the senses.

There is still an excellent selection of homes available at West Five, featuring two-bedroom + flex homes ranging from 963 - 1,094 square feet. The three-bedroom + flex is the last remaining penthouse home in West Five. It features 1,946 square feet of interior space (three beds, 2.5 bath, flex, den) along with 1,217 square feet of outdoor space — both on the main level living/master bedroom and a private rooftop patio that faces northeast towards the Vancouver city skyline, Kitsilano water, and north shore mountains. Pricing will start from $779,900.

"We've created a luxurious, sophisticated take on all the aspects that make Vancouver so desirable," says Tim Orr of Orr Developments, the developer.

The warm wood and naturally variegated marble provide a polished, natural addition to the flawless, gallery-like spaces and their uptown details like strategic halogen lighting and stainless steel.

Bring home an armful of fresh produce and other riches from Granville Island and your kitchen will provide the perfect place for prep, cooking, presentation and socializing.

The kitchen's Calacutta marble backsplash is a dramatic backdrop to high-end finishes including a stainless steel appliance package with Fhiaba refrigerator, Wolf gas range and professional Faber pullout hood fan. Add to that the Kohler stainless steel undermount sinks, Caesarstone countertops in sleek concrete or blizzard, and under-cabinet LED task lighting, and you have a genuine chef's kitchen.

The sensory enjoyment translates to the bathrooms too, with fixtures, toilet and undermount sinks by Kohler, and the homes' signature marble countertops, deep soaker tubs, porcelain floor tiles and a seamless glass shower enclosure with unique marble hexagon mosaic floor tile.

Some luxuries at West Five are invisible. NuHeat under-floor heating makes getting out of bed in the morning enjoyable, and the Wi-Fi-enabled thermostats allow you to control the interior climate with precision.

The West Five presentation centre is now open at 1817 West 5th Ave. in Vancouver. Call 604-715-6060; email info@westfiveliving.com; or visit the website: westfiveliving.com.

SUMMER IN THE CITY

The neighbourhood is packed with events year-round that residents can look forward to, and summer is when the activity and vibrancy of the neighbourhood is at its height. Residents at West Five will get a chance to enjoy some of Vancouver's best events, a short walk or bike ride from home. KHATSAHLANO, a free, 10-block street party takes place along West 4th Avenue all day on July 11.

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metro SPORTS
The red-hot U.S. men's national team beat Germany 2-1 in a friendly in Cologne
Thursday, June 11, 2015

IN BRIEF

AHL Comets return fire in Calder Cup final

Vancouver Canucks prospect Nicklas Jensen, a first-round draft pick from 2011, was credited with the winning goal, as the Utica Comets held on to defeat the Manchester Monarchs 3-2 in Game 3 of the Calder Cup final.

The Comets, the Canucks' AHL affiliate, now trail the Monarchs 2-1 in the best-of-seven series.

Jensen now has goals in back-to-back games. Fellow Vancouver prospect Alexandre Grenier had a goal and an assist.

CAM TUCKER/METRO

WADA calls out CFL on its drug policy

The World Anti-Doping Agency says the CFL's drug policy has "room for improvement." WADA released a statement Wednesday after the head of the organization's only accredited lab in Canada slammed the league earlier this week for failing to reprimand first-time drug offenders or upholding suspensions handed down in university.

The CFL/CFLPA's drug policy states that a player who initially tests positive is subject to mandatory testing for two years, but does not face suspension and is not named publicly. A second offence would result in a three-game suspension, while a third positive test would mean a year-long ban.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Herdman full of bravado

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Canada coach certain his team is better than New Zealand

A confident John Herdman dissected New Zealand's tactics at his pre-game news conference Wednesday at the Women's World Cup.

And the Canadian coach made it clear that he does not expect the Football Ferns to bring anything new to the table Thursday.

"Very clearly, we're a better team … and I think quality for quality, we're a better team than New Zealand," said Herdman.

"And if we connect and we connect like we did against China for periods and we improve on some things and we live the game plan, Canada should win this game. I said this right from the onset, we should win this group."

Winning the group means less travel and avoiding other group winners until deeper into the 24-team tournament.

Canada, ranked eighth in the world, is coming off a 1-0 win over No. 16 China while No. 17 New Zealand was beaten 1-0 by the 12th-ranked Netherlands in the other opening Group A match.

John Herdman coached the New Zealand women's national team from 2006 to 2011.
JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Herdman is no stranger to the Kiwis. He used to coach them and current head coach Tony Readings is his former assistant.

And while he plans to have a glass of wine with Readings after the game, Herdman made no secret about the outcome he expects at Commonwealth Stadium. Canada wants the points more, he said.

Bravado aside, some observers thought Herdman struggled to keep his emotions in check when he was first asked about facing his old team. In contrast, the New Zealand camp was all business.

"The fact that we're playing against a coach that used to be in charge of this team doesn't really change too much for us," Readings said at his subsequent news conference.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **"The reality is we know what they're going to throw at us now.**
> John Herdman on facing former club New Zealand

STANLEY CUP FINAL

Blackhawks hang on to pull even with Lightning

Talk of a must-win game was hyperbole. The Chicago Blackhawks didn't face elimination, but knew they couldn't lose twice at home and feel good about themselves.

So they showed why they're two-time champions by beating the Tampa Bay Lightning 2-1 in Game 4 of the Stanley Cup final Wednesday night at United Center to even the best-of-seven 2-2.

"I think everybody in our locker-room knew we had to play better," said Patrick Sharp.

Game 5 is Saturday back at Amalie Arena in Tampa, Fla.

Brandon Saad scored the game-winner in the third period as the Blackhawks beat surprise Lightning starting goaltender Andrei Vasilevskiy. Captain Jonathan Toews scored earlier in the night on the rookie, who replaced the injured Ben Bishop.

GAME 4 **In Chicago**

HAWKS	LIGHTNING
2	1

Vasilevskiy made 17 saves in his first-career Stanley Cup start. At the other end, Corey Crawford stopped 24 of the 25 shots he faced, including many in the final minutes as the Lightning tried desperately to get the tying goal.

Alex Killorn scored Tampa Bay's only goal.

The Blackhawks cracked the 20-year-old goaltender for the winner 6:22 into the third period. Vasilevskiy blockered the puck away from Saad, but the forward recovered it and sent a backhander in to give Chicago the lead.

"They got a couple breaks around the net. Both goals were bounces," said Lightning head coach Jon Cooper. "They capitalized on their breaks."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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RECIPE Fresh Corn Soup

EAT LIGHT AT HOME

Rose Reisman
rosereisman.com
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You can always substitute canned corn for fresh corn.

Ready in
Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes

Ingredients
- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- 1 ½ cups diced sweet onion
- 1 ½ tsp minced garlic
- 6 fresh corn cobs or 6 cups canned corn
- 2 cups chicken or vegetable stock
- ¼ cup 2 per cent evaporated milk
- Salt and pepper
- ½ cup frozen green peas, defrosted and slightly mashed
- 6 cooked baby cocktail shrimp (optional)

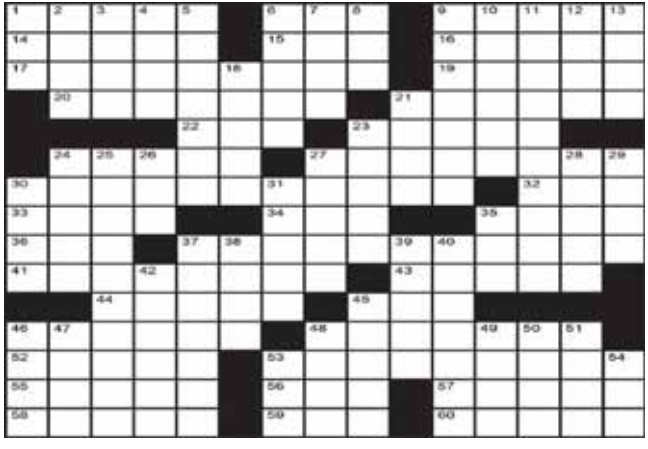
Directions
1. In a soup pan, heat oil and sauté onion and garlic until soft, about five minutes.
2. Meanwhile, with a sharp knife, slice kernels from corn. Add all but a half cup of the corn kernels to sautéed onions and cook for another three minutes.
3. Add stock, cover and simmer for five minutes. Place in food processor, add milk, salt and pepper and purée until smooth. Add back to soup pan, add remaining half cup corn and gently heat for two minutes, until corn is tender.
4. Place in bowls, garnish with peas and shrimp, if using.

Nutrition per serving
- Calories 140
- Carbohydrates 22 g
- Protein 7 g
- Sodium 140 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Word of __
6. Earth's blue ceiling
9. World _ _ _ (1939 to 1945)
14. Ms. Shire
15. Detectives, for short
16. __-garde
17. ___ Before Serving (Direction on a beverage carton)
19. Gunpowder component
20. "The __" by The Irish Rovers
21. Sailor's tattoo
22. Dutch airline
23. 'P' of SVP
24. Viola music symbol, _ __
27. Puffins, for example
30. __ streets (Tourists can walk on them in Old Quebec)
32. Fair-hiring letters
33. Hostile-to-Hobbits humanoids
34. Hosiery hue
35. "Yahoo!" from ancient times
36. Alphabetic sequence
37. Crowbar or The Guess Who genre: 2 wds.
41. Canadian TV series of 1994 to 1999: 2 wds.
43. Singer Mr. Gibb
44. Middle, legal-style
45. Auction offer
46. Fortified like Old Quebec
48. Montreal __ (Since-1778 newspaper)
52. _ _ from the blue (Something unexpected)
53. Celine Dion is an impression by what "This Hour Has 22 Minutes" cast member?: 2 wds.
55. Go-Go's hit: "__ __ the Beat"
56. Function
57. Sports team leader
58. Solo
59. "__ better be!"
60. County in England

DOWN
1. Logan, et al.
2. Hawaiian island
3. __ Bator, Mongolia
4. Beach torch
5. Yukon: __ Hill, near Whitehorse, two wind turbines sit atop it
6. __ whale
7. Ceramics oven
8. Couture monogram
9. Spice Girls smash
10. Swedish DJ
11. __ Beach Provincial Park, on Vancouver Island
12. Obi accessory
13. Road of ancient Rome
18. Montcalm's 1759 Battle of Quebec opponent
21. Mr. Rickman
23. Toilers
24. Greek island
25. Crown corp. broadcaster's iconic symbol: 3 wds.
26. Weight numbers, for short
27. Hidden supply
28. Steve of FOX News
29. Look for
30. Undergrad
31. Express
35. Be off
37. Les Miserables character
38. Corb __, Canadian musician
39. Party island of Spain
40. Edmonton-born rapper, __ Weapon
42. Convince about an idea: 2 wds.
45. Stationed
46. Ontario: Canada Goose monument community
47. Genesis son
48. Wind blast
49. Boxing stats
50. Tetley products
51. 'Exist' suffix
53. Geneva's land, to FIFA
54. Wd. of gratitude

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
You won't have to tell others what kind of mood you are in, they will know by the look on your face exactly what you are thinking and feeling. If they are smart they will give you what you desire — or stay out of your way!

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Forget about material things and focus on the fun side of life. Yes, making money can be fun too but there are even better things you could be doing today. Someone you care for deeply needs some TLC.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
This is a good time for social activities, so why not throw a party and invite all your friends. You may even get the chance to get back on good terms with someone you fell out with earlier in the year.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Why so cautious? Why so reluctant to take risks? Whatever the reason you need to get over it. There is some good news coming your way and by the weekend you won't be cautious at all — you may even be reckless.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Try not to upset someone who is way more powerful than you. If they don't like what you have to say they will almost certainly make life tough for you. You don't have to flatter them — just don't offend.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You need to impress someone important and give your reputation a boost. You may have left it late but it's never too late, so get your act together and make sure those above you know what you can do.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You may not be able to explain how you reached a certain conclusion or answer but you know deep inside that it is right, so go with your instincts and don't let others persuade you to do something different.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Help will arrive just when you most need it today, so don't despair, even if the predicament you find yourself in makes it look as if there is no way out. You are being watched over by powers that won't let you come to harm.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Think back to what happened earlier in the year. Did you miss out on something because you were afraid to take a chance? If so, and if you regret it, you will soon get the opportunity to make amends.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Certain routines and methods have had their day and need to be replaced. Don't wait any longer. If you leave it too long the chance will pass you by and you could be stuck in the past forever.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
There is no point arguing with people whose opinions are so different to your own that there is no middle ground. On the other hand, the world would be a boring place if everyone agreed about everything.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Cosmic activity in the domestic area of your chart will help resolve differences of opinion that have dragged on too long. It's always a good idea to get along with those you live with – even more so those you love.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

4			9		8			5
	3			6			1	
8			1		6			9
	1			5			2	
3			4		2			7
	6			3			4	
2			5		9			8

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Soul SX Luxury shown[1] hwy / city 100km : 7.8L/9.9L

Forte SX shown[1] hwy / city 100km : 6.1L/8.8L

Sportage SX Luxury shown[1] hwy / city 100km : 8.3L/11.4L

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Offer based on new 2015 Forte LX+ AT (F0743F) with a selling price of $21,752.[4]

2015 SPORTAGE LX MT FWD

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PLUS DON'T PAY FOR 90 DAYS[5]

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Residents flock to Car Free Day in the West End on June 16, 2013. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Car Free Day grows stronger

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

What started 11 years ago as a festival to reclaim streets from cars has morphed into a boon for communities and businesses — and it's spreading to municipalities across B.C.

Vancouver's hugely popular Car Free Day, which began in 2005 as a response to climate change in general and pricey renovations to the Port Mann Bridge in particular, has transformed into four block parties that attract about 250,000 annually and inspired copycat events in North Vancouver, Victoria, the Comox Valley and three local high schools this year.

"It may be kind of random to throw a street festival and tie it to those things, but this has resonated with the citizens," said Matthew Carrico, chair of the non-profit Car Free Vancouver Society. "The sense of community on display on the streets of all the Car Free Days is really apparent."

Initially, temporarily shutting roads to cars made business associations uneasy, Carrico said, but anecdotal evidence shows the influx of passersby has been exceptionally good for business.

"A lot of restaurants report that it's their biggest day of the year," he said of the Main Street festival.

While the citizen-focused festival places a premium on community and public space, Carrico describes it as a "happy byproduct" that it works out for businesses. The shift in attitude is also apparent with the Viva Vancouver celebrations that close downtown sections of Granville Street on weekends throughout the summer.

"To begin with, the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association was wary of shutting the street down, but after the first year they really got onboard with the idea and now are real partners in those events," Carrico said.

The adoption, however tepid at first, aligns with the goals of promoting a "safer, healthy, more prosperous, connected and pleasant city for everyone." (North Vancouver's council apparently want to add "fun" to that list — it approved a 1,000-foot slip and slide for its Car Free Day on Aug. 22.)

Yet the volunteer-run society has had its share of growing pains after organizers got flack for limited recycling options that clashed with their environmental ideals. This has been addressed with a partnership with VanCity to help them better manage waste.

Carrico chuckled when asked if it would be possible for the entire city to go car free for a day, but said it would be amazing if not realistic.

Still, the proportion of car use has dropped over the decade of Car Free Days, although it's impossible to prove the festival's role. As of 2014, motor vehicle trips make up 50 per cent of trips down from 60 per cent in 2008, according to city data.

Car ownership is decreasing amongst millennials, although they're flocking to car sharing memberships with car2go, Evo, Modo and ZipCar.

Car Free Day will take place in the West End on Denman Street on Saturday, June 20 and on Commercial Drive and Main Street on Sunday, June 21. Kitsilano will host a variety of neighbourhood block parties on both June 20 and 21.

Visit carfreevancouver.org for more information

TRANSPORTATION

Cyclists feel safer on city streets

Vancouver's bicycling culture has taken a dramatic shift from what it was less than a decade ago, according to Chris Bruntlett, one half of Modacity, a transportation and lifestyle consultancy based in Vancouver.

"People feel safer on the streets and as a result you're seeing more women, children, seniors, people that wouldn't otherwise identify themselves as cyclists," says Bruntlett, "Just riding the streets the last few days. It's exciting to see."

He and his wife and business partner Melissa made a conscious decision to not own a family car. Instead, the Bruntletts and their two kids bike everywhere, take public transit, and use car-sharing services like Car2Go for longer trips.

Less than a decade ago, cycling in Vancouver was "for the fit and the brave. It was all about speed and distance, and it was mostly fit, traffic-tolerant males who were willing to armour up and run with the bulls." It's not just the number of people on bikes that's changing, it's how they're riding. More people are using Vancouver's new protected bike lanes. More people are discovering upright bikes and eschewing hunched-over sport-style bikes, adopting ways of biking that work best for them.

One factor that Bruntlett feels is holding up Vancouver's ability to develop as a bike friendly city is the delay of the city's bikeshare program.

Bike lanes making it easier for famlies. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

When it does launch, the program will move the needle of the cycling culture in Vancouver even further, reinforcing the idea that "cycling is an extension of walking," says Bruntlett. "It acts as an extension of the transit system, so as a result you get thousands of new people that otherwise wouldn't ride a bike. It's a gateway drug to city cycling."

Vancouver's infrastructure is good in many places, such as the protected bike lanes in downtown Vancouver, but Bruntlett would like to see more of them along other Metro Vancouver thoroughfares like Main Street, Broadway and Commercial Drive, and beyond.

"Riding on the street just isn't an acceptable position for most people, and I certainly wouldn't do that with my kids. We stick almost entirely to the bike routes." The more the routes expand, the more people will be willing to get on bikes and try it out.

The benefits of that expansion will be too numerous to count, for individuals and their communities.

"More bikes on the road means less congestion. It means more human interaction. It just means a healthier, happier, more human city."

STEPHANIE ORFORD/METRO

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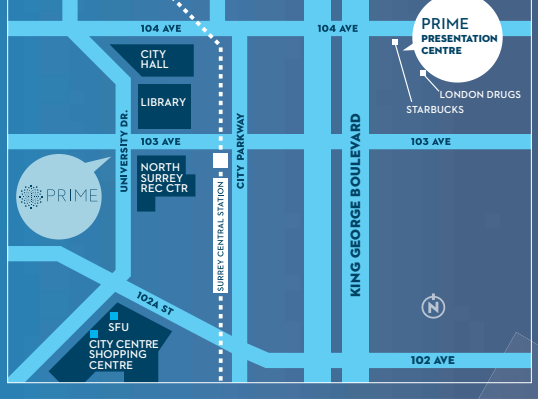

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Vancouver can 'Own the Podium' in tech

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

With 20-somethings tapping on laptops, a foosball table in the lunchroom and a well-used bike room, there's no doubt the Launch Academy in a West Hastings character building is in the tech universe.

But at this start-up hub, which helps entrepreneurs turn ideas into businesses, you'll never know if the person you sit beside is hammering out the city's next billion-dollar business like Slack or Hootsuite, co-founder Ray Walia said on a tour of the facility.

"It's extremely important to surround yourself with people going through the same thing," Walia said. "It becomes that safe landing pad environment."

In three years, more than 350 companies and 500 entrepreneurs have come through the hub's doors. These entrepreneurs often need to head to major centres such as San Francisco to attract major capital to expand scale, but Walia estimates about 95 per cent maintain a presence in Vancouver.

This start-up ecosystem gives Vancouver a shot, not to be Silicon Valley, but as a major player in the global tech boom, Walia said. It's a position countries including Argentina and Colombia are jockeying for.

As far as he's concerned, Vancouver is the obvious choice based on its location – it's a two-hour flight from San Francisco, in the same time zone and a gateway to Asia – the favourable Canadian dollar and the city's labour market (talent is loyal and cheaper).

"Vancouver has the opportunity to Own the Podium in tech," he said, referring to Canada's investment that led to winning the 2010 Olympics.

And CEOs from major Silicon Valley corporations have noticed. They're coming to check out Vancouver in June for Traction, a new conference that sold out its 500 spots well in advance, co-founder Llyoed Lobo said in an interview.

The conference features unicorns such as LinkedIn, Dropbox and Pinterest and aims to give tactical advice on how to get the first dozen, thousand and million customers.

"Having great ideas is excellent… everyone should think big and want to change the world," Lobo said. "But your giant great idea and product will only take you so far if you don't have people loving your product and paying for it."

The conference took off so fast; Lobo is already replicating it in other cities (talk about traction). And its ability to pull in companies from the valley perhaps indicates Vancouver is getting some traction of its own.

Vancouver Economic Commission CEO Ian McKay agrees the city is at an inflection point.

Ray Walia, co-founder and CEO of Launch Academy, laughs during a tour of the start-up hub's office. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Tech clusters have formed, local startups gone global have stuck around (Shoes.com, Avigilon, Global Relay) and tech giants including Microsoft and Amazon are setting up offices, McKay said.

"That's not accidental. They've taken a good close look," McKay said, adding he too wants to shed the comparison to Silicon Valley.

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Chef David Robertson prepares a breakfast sandwich at the Dirty Apron deli on Beatty Street. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

Young chefs fuel culinary experiments

FOODIE SCENE

Restaurant landscape is adapting to latest trends

Stephanie Orford
For Metro

Vancouver's food scene is quickly becoming a culinary beacon in the world. Our restaurants and diners embrace international flavours, many prefer hyper-local ingredients, and our young chefs are experimenting more than ever before.

SMALL, CASUAL, AGILE

The pop-up dinner, take-out window and food truck are taking over.

"We're seeing a lot of rock star local chefs doing a lot of casual menu items," said Erin Ireland, Vancouver food reporter and owner of To Die For Fine Foods. "It's so cool to see these skilled, talented chefs doing these simple, lower-priced items in casual spaces."

Young chefs are finding new avenues to show off their goods with a pared-down menu, small budget and lean team. And it's making the Vancouver food scene cheap, accessible and fun. Bestie for wieners, Fat Mao for noodles, Hi-Five for grilled cheese, are just a few places worth checking out.

THE RISE OF THE RESTO-PRENEUR

David Robertson, chef and owner of the Dirty Apron cooking school, said many chefs are creating their own small-scale start-ups.

"Before, it was you either go to a restaurant or a hotel," he said. "Back in the day you wouldn't think of opening your own place within five years of being out of culinary school."

THE FUTURE OF FOOD IS SOCIAL

Vancouver food lovers share what they love on social media, and local food purveyors worth their salt do, too. Many food carts post their current offerings and locations real-time on Twitter, and restaurants Instagram their pop-up brunches.

ETHICAL, LOCAL, SUSTAINABLE

These are today's menu buzzwords, and diners are going to keep insisting on them in the years to come.

"I'm seeing a lot of change in the ingredients we use," said Robertson. "We have a huge open door to the farms now. Twenty years ago we'd use your common vegetables and potatoes."

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VANCOUVER FARMERS MARKET

Heading into its 20th year, organizers are hoping to secure permanency and infrastructure

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

When Tara McDonald thinks back on the first Vancouver Farmers Market two decades ago, she can't believe how far the organization has come.

"It's evolved leaps and bounds," said McDonald, now executive director of the non-profit society that runs the Vancouver Farmers Markets. "We have seen nothing but growth in the demand and supply of local food."

Since the first Saturday farmers' market in 1995, which saw eight farmers, 500 customers, and about $40,000 in total sales, the organization now operates nine weekly markets — seven in summer and two in winter — across the city with 265 vendors that see about 425,000 shoppers a year.

While the growth is cause to celebrate, McDonald is also hoping the milestone anniversary will serve as a call to action to the city of Vancouver and the public to help the organization find a permanent home.

Despite being a significant contributor to the strength of the local economy — injecting $8.17 million directly and another estimated $15 million indirectly — McDonald said the farmers' markets operate without reliable infrastructure or a promise of permanency.

"I think it's one of the biggest secrets in Vancouver," she said. "A lot of people assume that the farmers' markets are permanent and that they're run by the city or some other more secure entity, when in fact they are very temporary and run by a non-profit organization."

Every year, organizers have to re-apply for one-year temporary permits to allow the farmers' markets to set up shop again. The markets operate on parking lots with tents where farmers try to set up their stalls without water, electricity, storage and very little signage.

"We have become an institution in Vancouver," said McDonald. "Yet we don't have a lot of assurances or any kind of lease agreements."

The lack of permanency is frustrating, McDonald said, especially compared to farmers' markets in other provinces like Nova Scotia, many of which have existed for 100 years and operate in both indoor buildings and outdoor environments that are well serviced. Those farmers' markets have also had permits to sell locally crafted beer, wine and spirits for years, a luxury that only came to Vancouver Farmers Markets this season.

"We are quite lacking here on the West Coast," McDonald said. "These are farmers' markets that have served the community for generations and farmers for generations and they're what help farmers stay farming."

McDonald said farmers' markets are not only integral to providing Vancouverites with locally grown food but also for allowing farmers to continue working.

For Lissa Goldstein, farm manager of Sole Food Street Farms, the lack of a permanent home for the farmers' markets every season creates unnecessary competition between farmers.

"A lot of farmers can't get the space that they want or need to vend their product," she said. "It creates more competition between the farmers when we should all be able to sell our food. There's plenty of demand."

Goldstein said farmers' markets are an important part of the community and the events deserve community support.

"It's a hub," she said. "It bridges the gap between eaters and producers, which I think is really valuable. Something you don't get in a grocery store."

Although the city has worked with the Vancouver Farmers Markets to find a permanent home, McDonald said the help has been "slow in coming." As the organization moves into its third decade of operating, McDonald said she hopes that finally changes.

"We don't want to have to go anywhere," she said. "We would love to look at the next 20 years and see us become a real bona fide institution with real permanency and infrastructure."

Tara McDonald, executive director of the non-profit society that runs the Vancouver Farmers Markets, visits the Sole Food Street Farms stall at the Yaletown Farmers Market.
JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

REGION'S BIGGEST

Vancouver summer festivals set to entertain

So many festivals, so little time. Whether you want to rock out to some of the biggest names in music, get fired up by an epic fireworks display, or enjoy a night of live theatre, the sheer amount of festivals available in Vancouver and surrounding areas this season is astounding. Here are just a few of the region's events:

Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival, June 4-Sept. 26, Vanier Park
As one of Canada's largest non-profit, professional Shakespeare festivals, Bard on the Beach offers Shakespeare plays in a spectacular setting on the waterfront in Vanier Park. Tickets are $55, bardonthebeach.org.

TD Vancouver International Jazz Festival, June 18-July 1
Billed as B.C.'s largest music and arts festival, the 30th anniversary of the TD Vancouver International Jazz Festival features a who's who of talent from Buddy Guy to Erykah Badu and the Roots. Half of the 300 concerts are free to the public. Visit coastaljazz.ca.

Vancouver International Buskerfest, June 26-28, Granville Street (Dunsmuir to Nelson)
The fourth annual Buskerfest is bringing an even bigger cast of international pavement performers, including acrobats, musicians and comedians. Performances run noon to 9 p.m. See schedule at the website: vancouverbuskerfest.com.

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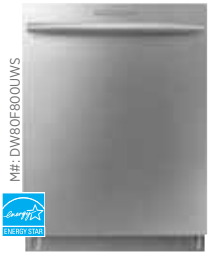

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An actor that is believed to be Ryan Reynolds is dressed as Deadpool on a movie set in downtown Vancouver on April 13. JONATHAN HAYWARD /THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hollywood North living up to its name

FILMING AND A-LISTERS

Vancouver rebounds from production slow down

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

The film and television industry is back in Vancouver, in a big way.

Two years after the industry ran a desperate Save B.C. Film campaign during the provincial election, Vancouver is once again living up to its billing as 'Hollywood North' thanks to a favourable U.S. dollar and an influx of A-list productions.

Tomorrowland and Fifty Shades of Grey were two recent shot-in-Vancouver blockbusters to hit the big screen, and the future slate includes Ryan Reynolds' comic book flick Deadpool (which recently used the viaduct as a private film set), Steven Spielberg's Big Friendly Giant and the next chapters in the Star Trek, Tron and Planet of the Apes franchises.

The recent flood of big screen productions are in addition to the city's traditionally bustling television (X-Files, Arrow, The Flash) and visual effects (Industrial Light and Magic, Sony Imageworks, and MPC, among others) portfolio.

That means life is good right now for the approximately 25,000 people who ply their trade working on location.

So good that some studios are being forced to look elsewhere to film their movies.

"It's very busy right now," said production manager Wayne Bennet, one of the architects of the Save B.C. Film campaign. "So busy that there are no more soundstages and warehouses available for studios to use. The next Wolverine movie had to go to Montreal actually because there was just nowhere they could shoot it in Vancouver."

While Save B.C. Film eventually failed to convince government to provide more incentives for foreign studios to shoot locally, via tax breaks, the industry has rebounded on its own.

Bennet said the biggest factor in the industry's resurgence has been the value of the U.S. dollar, which makes shooting in Canada an attractive proposition for cost-conscious studios.

Coupled with provincial film subsidies, existing workforce and studio space, and a shared time zone with most major studios in Los Angeles, Vancouver is a hot commodity.

Canadians ready for another season

Daniel Hendriksen
For Metro

The Canadians' roster is made up of high school and college graduates who have just been drafted and are getting their first taste of professional baseball. CONTRIBUTED

Vancouver's boys of summer are back.

The Vancouver Canadians baseball club is all set for another 76-game season in the MiLB Class A-Short Season Northwest league. The local squad hits the diamond for their first game of 2015 on the road in Keizer, Ore., against the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes on Thursday, June 18.

The Canadians' home opener at Scotiabank Field at Nat Bailey Stadium is Friday, June 26 at 7:05 p.m. when they host the Hillsboro Hops in a five-game series.

The Canadians have won the league championship in three of the past four years. An affiliate of the Toronto Blue Jays, the C's owe a lot of their success to the Blue Jays' ability to draft and develop players. However, Canadians' broadcaster and director of communications, Rob Fai, said it's more than that, as the environment here in Vancouver plays a large role as well.

"I think the environment here at Nat Bailey is like no other stadium in our league, and it's actually not even close. These guys will go to some of the smaller markets like Salem, Ore., or Tri-Cities in Washington and be playing in front of 500-600 fans and then they'll come to Vancouver and there's about 6,000 fans every night — and they're a pretty knowledgeable group. The environment here almost shell-shocks opposing players for the first day or two."

The Canadians' roster is made up of high school and college graduates who have just been drafted and are getting their first taste of professional baseball. Even though they're in the minors, Fai said the Canadians do their best to run their organization like a major league team.

"It's pretty much a major league city and it's got minor league baseball," said Fai of Vancouver.

"We do everything we can to make it as good of an experience as possible. Also, because we're affiliated with Toronto, they love having us here in Vancouver because it gives these American and Dominican players their first glimpse of what it's like to play in Canada."

Nat Bailey Stadium is 64 years old this year. In an attempt to modernize it, while keeping the old accents, the Canadians have added a new dimension to the ball park with additional seats in left field and along the third-base area. In all, 850 seats have been added bringing capacity to approximately 6,000.

Even though The Nat is more than a half-century old, it is considered an impressive little ball park.

Those who have been to a game there will describe the venue as picturesque, and conveniently located in the heart of the city.

The regular season runs until Sept. 6, but the C's will be looking to play a little later than that with yet another deep playoff push.

If all goes as planned, they'll bring a fourth championship in five years back to Vancouver.

For more information and for tickets, visit the website: canadiansbaseball.com.

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Vancouver Whitecaps' Gershon Koffie, of Ghana, is mobbed by his teammates after scoring against Real Salt Lake during the first half of an MLS soccer game in Vancouver on May 30. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Whitecaps prepare for historic summer

Cam Tucker
Metro | Vancouver

The Vancouver Whitecaps are about to make club history this summer.

The local Major League Soccer side will take part in its first-ever CONCACAF Champions League competition, having just learned its opponents in a recent draw.

There is familiarity and a healthy rivalry with one opponent — the Seattle Sounders FC. The other, C.D. Olimpia out of Honduras, is one the Whitecaps don't have much of a book on. However, it is also the most successful club team in the Central American nation, having won 29 league titles.

In total, the Whitecaps will play four games in the group stage, including two against each opponent — one at home, and one away — in what will be a difficult group.

The Sounders FC, a Cascadia Cup rival with Vancouver, was the top team in the MLS regular season standings a year ago.

"It was exciting and it was also anxious at the same time in that you want to try get a group you feel you have a really good chance of winning," Whitecaps president Bob Lenarduzzi told Metro.

Playing in Honduras will be no easy feat. Lenarduzzi, who has played and coached with Canada's men's national team, refrained from using the word "hostile" when asked about the atmosphere in the 34,000-seat stadium in the capital, Tegucigalpa.

"I know what it's like to play … in that stadium. It's a very, very vibrant — for lack of a better expression — atmosphere," he said.

"Hostile would almost suggest there's danger associated with it. That's not been the case. The one time I was there as a coach, the bus was coming out of the stadium and got rocked around a little bit. But no real panic there. That's their life. That's like hockey, the be-all and end-all in Canada. The same applies to soccer in most parts of the world."

Since Carl Robinson took over as head coach in December of 2013, the Whitecaps have brought in numerous players from Central and South America, where they would be more acclimatized to the atmosphere such as the one expected in Honduras.

That includes 18-year-old Honduran international midfielder Deybi Flores, who previously played for Club Deportivo Motagua before signing in Vancouver.

The Whitecaps advanced to the CONCACAF Champions League based on their 2014 season. They were the top-ranked Canadian team in the MLS standings, earning a berth in the international tournament, which includes teams from North America, Central America, and the Caribbean.

Lions brand needed revival

Over the last three years, it seems change has been a common theme with Vancouver's professional sports teams, especially for the B.C. Lions in the last several months.

After a disappointing and downright ugly loss in the playoffs last November, the local Canadian Football League team underwent a massive coaching change in the off-season, with Mike Benevides being relieved of his duties and Jeff Tedford hired as his replacement.

The Lions have also seen several veteran players let go, most recently long-time kicker Paul McCallum. But these alterations aren't just reserved for the football operations department.

The brand itself was in need of a revival.

Since winning the Grey Cup in 2011, the Lions have failed to make it back to the championship game. Since then, the on-field product has been at risk of getting stale, and attendance inside BC Place Stadium has declined.

During training camp in Kamloops, Lions' president and CEO Dennis Skulsky said that this year the upper bowl at BC Place won't be opened unless there is strong enough demand for tickets.

Instead, they'll go with a model similar to that of the Whitecaps and open only the lower bowl, while closing off the upper half of the stadium with the white secondary roof that looks more like ship sails.

"Part of what's driving it is to create the fan engagement," said Skulsky, adding the new capacity will be 27,500 seats.

"So, we looked at everything and one of the factors is we think we can create the atmosphere better in the lower bowl (rather) than trying to do it in the big stadium."

The question of entertainment, and giving fans bang for their buck, doesn't just apply to the Lions. After a defence-dominated 2014 season, the CFL's board of governors approved several new rule changes, designed to increase offence through the passing game and speed up the flow of the game.

CAM TUCKER/METRO

A B.C. Lions fan at the 2014 Grey Cup in Vancouver.
JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

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